Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 28, Issue 5
MAY 2020

COUNTRY LIFE'S FOUR BOYS FOR 2020

DIVINING ROD: First Crop Yearlings of 2020. Missed winning the G1 Cigar Mile by a head. Stamps his foals. Out of G1 half-sister to KITTEN'S JOY.

FRIESAN FIRE: The only Maryland stallion to sire a Graded Stakes Winner in 2019: CALL PAUL (G2 $573,720-earner)

MOSLER: 75 2-Year-Olds of 2020. Won 3 of 6 starts on dirt, then a pair of $100,000 turf stakes. Half-brother to $2.3-million G1 mare CONTESTED.

SUPER NINETY NINE: By Tapit's sire Pulpit. Won G3 Southwest S by 11¼ lengths. Sire of 2-for-2 MD-bred Let's Play Nine (Thoro-Graph 1 in debut).

Country Life Farm Stallions

DIVINING ROD by Tapit ($5,000 LFSN) • FRIESAN FIRE by A.P. Indy ($4,000 LFSN) • MALIBU MOON by A.P. Indy ($60,000 in Kentucky) • MOSLER by War Front ($4,000 LFSN) • SUPER NINETY NINE by Pulpit ($3,000 LFSN)

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The mares at Country Life already understand social distancing and by their expressions, the babies are catching on quickly.

ELLEN B. PONS

In this issue

COVID-19 Impact: Racing looks for a way forward

Every regional racetrack was shut down in mid-April (Charles Town's March 21 card was the last) and all were forced to adjust, though horsemen and management looked ahead to getting a chance to run. By Joe Clancy, Linda Dougherty, Tom LaMarra. Page 20

COVID-19 Impact: Spring steeplechase season grounded

Typically a March-May endeavor, and totally dependent on spectator and sponsor revenue, the spring steeplechase calendar was in shambles as a dozen meets (including the venerable Maryland Hunt Cup) were canceled. Three meets hoped to salvage part of the season by running in June. By Joe Clancy. Page 34

COVID-19 Impact: Regional 2-year-old market adjusts

After canceling sales in Florida and California, Fasig-Tipton postponed its May 2-year-old sale in Maryland to late June, and looked for other contingency plans as consignors played a waiting game. By Sean Clancy. Page 38

A Preakness history lesson

Like much of racing, the 2020 Preakness was postponed and on hold, but the Triple Crown's second jewel has moved before and been run on a variety of dates in its long history. By Cindy Deubler. Page 46

Cover: Sign of the times–empty seats at Pimlico (and everywhere else). Photo by Jerry Dzierwinski.

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Horse Show Ring, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium

Entries close June 15

$25 per horse • Call the MHBA office at 410/252-2100 or visit www.marylandthoroughbred.com for forms and information

The 2019 Grand Champion: Midshipman—Lemons and Limes filly, handled by Lauren Carter for breeders Bob Manfuso and Katy Voss.

Yearling Show Purse awards total $40,000

There are two opportunities to win purse awards with the yearling you show in 2020. A $40,000 MHBA Yearling Show purse will be split and distributed twice: $20,000 will go to the top four money-winners racing as 2-year-olds in 2021* and another $20,000 will be awarded the following year to the four highest-earning 3-year-old performers*.

*all earnings verifiable by The Jockey Club

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 28, Issue 5

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Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION
300 E. Towsontown Blvd.
Towson, MD 21286

April 10, 2020

Dear MHBA Breeder/Owner Members:

The entire Maryland Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry is currently navigating unsettling times with the current Covid-19 National Emergency. During times like this it is imperative that all breeders and horsemen stay optimistic and connected by working together.

The fiscal future of the Maryland Bred Race Fund (MBRF) going forward is uncertain for sure. The MBRF's normal revenue stream which includes: VLT revenue, simulcast commissions, telephone account wagering and share of handle from Laurel Park, Pimlico (Preakness) and Timonium is at a virtual standstill.

All Breeder and Stallion bonuses earned up to and including the closure of racing on March 15th have been paid.

Consequently, when live racing resumes, no breeder or stallion bonuses will be paid until the MBRF's revenue streams are evaluated and studied for a minimum of 90 days before a commitment to specific percentages for breeder and stallion bonuses can be determined at the current rate or a lesser rate. The current economic crisis will require the percentages to be based on the funds available.

The Maryland Racing Commission will continue to have oversight of the Maryland Bred Race Fund and is abundantly aware of the urgent need to get Maryland-Bred bonus money in the hands of recipients as soon as reasonably feasible but it will be no sooner than 120 days after live racing resumes.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

David Hayden
Maryland Racing Commission
Chair, Maryland Bred Race Fund Advisory Committee

POST TIME

LIFE GOES ON. In the midst of a global pandemic, farms in the region and beyond welcomed new foals like this Mosler colt delivered by Blisstikus (with help from Christy Holden and Jesus Gutierrez Jr.) at Maryland's Country Life Farm. *Ellen Pons*

SAY IT AGAIN

"I just got off the tractor, I'm mowing paddocks. I reseeded two or three last year, limed them and seeded them, and I'm cutting them for the first time and hoping it instills them to grow a little bit more. My wife is chain harrowing. We're still working. There's always something to be done."
Trainer Kieron Magee, on what he did during racing's shutdown

"The only thing I've been able to plan on is painting the trellis, painting the wood trim around the smokehouse which has needed to be done for years and all this stuff that's been on the second shelf or the back burner."
Trainer Tim Keefe, sounding a lot like Magee

"They're all training fantastic. You couldn't have them looking or doing so well unless there was nowhere to run them."
Trainer Lacey Gaudet, on her paused stable

"It's so Murphy's Law, our horses never looked better. . ."
Trainer Kate Dalton, sounding a lot like Gaudet

"With a deadline, at least you can procrastinate."
Maryland Horse Breeders executive director Cricket Goodall, on trying to make plans or strategize during racing's shutdown

"She was having a wonderful time. I'd like to catch up to her and tell her not to tell all her friends. No harm was done, but you don't want that to happen."
Fair Hill Training Center general manager Sally Goswell, on a trail rider who took an afternoon spin around the facility's dirt track aboard a Paint horse in a western saddle

"I can't tell you how uplifting, it's not a surprise but how gratifying it is, for every single person I've had to go to to make something work not only did they do it, they did it happily and asked 'What else can I do?' "
National Steeplechase Association president Al Griffin, on the spirit of racing's participants

"When the economy changes on you, then you have to modify. You can't keep doing what you did."
Venture capitalist and Thoroughbred owner TK Kuegler, on reacting to the new business landscape created by the coronavirus

Some Good News

In March and April it was easy to look at the COVID-19 outbreak and its effect on racing and the world beyond with worry, fear and trepidation. But the news wasn't all bad. As in any disaster, glimmers of hope came along with the pain.

■ Former exercise rider and jockey Amy Vega, now a respiratory therapist at Nemours Children's Hospital in Delaware, called her friend Anita Motion about a need for additional protective gear for medical personnel and—after a few phone calls, some online searches and a gofundme.com effort—jockey goggle maker Kroop's offered face shields at cost.

■ The town of Aiken in South Carolina has long been a winter training ground for Thoroughbreds, all the way back to the 1940s as the home of future Kentucky Derby winner Shut Out and steeplechase champion Elkridge. But, due to the coronavirus, winter 2020 stretched into spring as many Thoroughbred operations were forced to stay in Aiken due to racing and sales cancellations. They received some welcome news when the Aiken Training Track cut track usage fees in half.

"It's usually $200 per month per horse to use the track, but we made it $100," said Bill Gutfarb, president of the track's board of directors. "We have some trainers who can't go to their home tracks and we have some 2-year-old people who can't sell their horses. They have to keep the horses exercised, and we felt that would be a nice gesture. They've all appreciated it."

Horses trained by Mike Keogh, Glenn Thompson and Tony Mitchell were among those still in Aiken in April while pinhooker Cary Frommer was also operating a full barn at a time when some of her horses would have been sold or moved to racetrack trainers.

Aiken hosted its annual Aiken Trials day March 14, one of the last racing events before largescale shutdowns throughout much of the country.

■ Silks maker Bloodline Products switched its production to surgical masks and hospital gowns for medical personnel, funded in part by a gofundme.com campaign.

■ Beyond independent efforts, several nonprofits and foundations in racing were helping backstretch and farm workers, horse welfare organizations and others.

TOD MARKS

ALL OUT. *Like everything else in racing, the 2020 steeplechase season was on hold due to the coronavirus outbreak—meaning there were no programs or even program readers at South Carolina's Springdale Race Course for the Carolina Cup.*

GO FIGURE

38 Horses turned out for six weeks (maybe more) by trainer Kieron Magee during the racing shutdown in March and April.

22.6 Percent decrease in total North American Thoroughbred wagering handle from March 2019 to March 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic; handle declined from $945 million to $731 million.

29.9 Percent decrease in total North American Thoroughbred purses from March 2019 to March 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic; purses declined from $79.7 million to $55.8 million.

30.9 Percent decrease in total North American Thoroughbred live racing days from March 2019 to March 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic; racing days declined from 310 to 214.

NAMES OF THE MONTH

Warm: The 4-year-old filly, second at Laurel Park three times this winter for trainer Kieron Magee, is out of Shawl.

Paul the Waiter: The 5-year-old gelding is out of Boxitup. We don't know where Paul works, but he's surely boxed it up when someone couldn't finish dinner. Paul the horse was second at Laurel in March.

No More Talk: The 6-year-old stakes-placed Maryland-bred is by Not For Love out of Parlez. The dam's name is French for Speak.

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MILESTONES

Canceled: MATCH Series 2020, given the uncertainty of racing schedules and concerns about available purse money in light of the coronavirus shutdown. The series was set to debut for its third straight season at Laurel Park and Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races April 18. With live racing in the region on hold, there appeared to be few good options. "No one wanted to compromise the quality of the event and the brand we are building," said series creator Alan Foreman. "MATCH is a luxury, and the monies contributed by the horsemen's organizations, racetracks and breeders' organizations to support the series can be better used for the benefit of day-to-day racing when live racing returns."

Released: Data from the Equine Injury Database for 2019, by The Jockey Club. The 11th year of reporting to the EID showed a decrease in the rate of fatal injury in 2019 (1.53 per 1,000 starts) compared to 2018 (1.68). The 2019 rate is the lowest since the EID was launched in 2009. The overall drop in the risk of fatal injury from 2009-19 was 23.5 percent. Based on the 2019 data, 99.84 percent of flat racing starts at the racetracks participating in the EID were completed without a fatality.

"The 23.5 percent reduction in fatal injuries since 2009 indicates that the Thoroughbred industry's commitment to equine safety is paying dividends," said Kristin Werner, senior counsel of The Jockey Club.

Available: A video tutorial and answers to questions, from The Jockey Club, to assist industry stakeholders with digital certificates. Digital certificates were introduced in 2018 to streamline management of the official certificate of registration throughout the life of a Thoroughbred. "A digital certificate follows a Thoroughbred from the farm to the sales to the racetrack to the breeding shed and even into retirement," said The Jockey Club registrar Rick Bailey. "The foals of 2018 are now 2 years old, and they are the first Thoroughbreds to arrive at the racetrack with digital certificates. We want to help racing office personnel, trainers, and other interested parties learn how to manage digital certificates to ensure the process is smooth and efficient."

Died: At 31, New Jersey-bred champion sprinter Belong to Me. The son of Danzig was bred by brothers

THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Trainer Duarte stricken with coronavirus: Trainer Jorge Duarte, who took over the Colts Neck Stables operation at the very end of 2018, was battling coronavirus in late March, Frank Vespe reported.

Backtracks–The tale of Cavalcade and Isabel Dodge Sloane: The New Jersey-bred Kentucky Derby winner and his owner, Isabel Dodge Sloane, is profiled by Jennifer Kelly.

Pinhook Diary–"Food is PJ's Only Priority": Chelsea Lowman's monthly pinhooking diary continued, as PJ settles into life at the new farm, after a bump or two.

Backtracks–Racing in the time of Spanish Flu: Kelly took a look back at how war, and the Spanish Flu, one of the worst pandemics ever, took a bite–but not too big–out of racing.

Runnin'toluvya returns with sharp score: Ten months removed from his last win–and five from his last start–Runnin'toluvya returned with a sharp score at Charles Town Races in March, reported Vespe.

On Breeding–Fortheluvofbourbon product of generations: Flashy first-out winner Fortheluvofbourbon is just 3–but he's the latest in a line stretching back generations. Linda Dougherty tells the story.

X Y Jet and the horses of the Navarro-Servis indictment

Abridged story by Frank Vespe, posted March 10 in Breaking, National news, Opinion, Top Stories. Read the story in its entirety at TheRacingBiz.com.

The indictments handed down against 27 people involved in Thoroughbred and standardbred horse racing are by turns horrifying, angering, and on occasion even amusing. Criminal masterminds, they were not.

"I don't want to talk about this s—t on the phone, ok," trainer Jorge Navarro told fellow trainer Jason Servis–in a phone call–moments after the men had agreed they were using an alleged performance enhancer called SGF-1000 on large numbers of their horses.

And then there's a moment in January 2019 when harness trainer Nicholas Surick tells "another individual"–in a phone conversation–that in the future, he would only discuss the investigation into him via an encrypted communications app.

Still, that the alleged miscreants aren't likely to cause overcrowding at future Mensa meetings doesn't make their crimes any less horrific. Nor does it make their victims any less worthy of having justice served. While there is certainly no shortage of human victims in this sad episode–including other trainers and owners, riders who might have thought they were getting on sound horses, and of course the betting public (who of course will never receive justice)–the most important victims here are the ones unable to fend for themselves: the horses.

The sad tale of X Y Jet gets particular scrutiny in the indictment. That redoubtable runner won 12 races, and more than $3 million, in his career but passed away in January from an apparent heart attack.

The indictment alleges that the trainers used a wide variety of drugs, some designed to enhance horses' performance, others to minimize pain they might be feeling. Many were mislabeled, some manufactured in unregistered facilities, and others given despite no medical need.

The fate of those indicted rests now with the justice system. But the fate of the horses themselves rests with the industry, and it sure would be nice if–this time–racing didn't fail them.

EST. 2019

SAFE BET PROGRAM

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MILESTONES

TONY LEONARD

Joseph and William Stavola and raced for their Middletown Stables. Trained by Allen Jerkens, the multiple graded stakes-winning sprinter ran at 2 and 3, won seven races, earned $261,166 and entered stud in New York. The sire of Grade 1 winner and New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year Jersey Girl in his first crop, he was moved to Lane's End in Kentucky and shuttled to Australia. He sired more than 70 stakes winners, three champions and 29 graded stakes winners, and has progeny earnings in excess of $77 million. His daughter Forever Together was champion turf mare of 2008, and he is the broodmare sire of champion and top sire Lookin At Lucky. Pensioned from stud duties in 2013, Belong to Me spent 22 years at Lane's End.

Extended: The late Triple Crown nomination deadline to a yet-to-be-determined date this year. The extension was agreed upon by racing officials at Churchill Downs Racetrack, the Maryland Jockey Club and New York Racing Association. When all three Triple Crown dates appear to be firm, a late Triple Crown nomination date will be announced. Three-year-old Thoroughbreds from the 2017 foal crop not made eligible for $600 during the early nomination phase will be able to be nominated for $6,000.

Assisted: The Thoroughbred Charities of America's Horses First Fund, providing funding to backstretch and aftercare organizations working to support the Thoroughbred community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Horses First Fund assists Thoroughbreds and their caretakers in need of emergency aid due to large-scale neglect, natural disaster, or other catastrophe. The Horses First Fund will also provide grants to several aftercare organizations that have taken in additional Thoroughbreds due to the pandemic or have additional needs. Thoroughbred industry related non-profit organizations interested in applying for an emergency grant may contact Erin Crady at ecrady@tca.org. TCA also created a free webinar to offer suggestions on how to create virtual events and tips for digital fundraising at tca.org.

Available: Online, the American Horse Council's 2020 Horse Industry Directory. A resource for national and international contacts, the directory covers every segment of the equine community, including breed registries; sport organizations; equine health and welfare organizations; interstate health requirements; statistical information; and an index of listings and telephone numbers. Hard copies are also available for purchase at horsecouncil.org.

A Maryland-bred Hero—25th Anniversary

CIGAR

Maryland Return

Pimlico Special Handicap-G1

May 13, 1995 - Pimlico

A trip to Pimlico in 1995 for the historic Pimlico Special-G1 would be the only time Cigar raced in the state of his birth.

Kicking off Preakness week, the $600,000 race saw 1994 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year Concern once again face Cigar, this time getting a three-pound shift from their previous meeting in the Oaklawn Handicap. The race's field of six was devoid of speed, and Jerry Bailey and Cigar took advantage, taking the lead and never being challenged. Posting quarters of :24.38, :23:78, :23:40 and :23:81, the bay led by 5 lengths into the stretch and came home under a vigorous hand ride, getting the final three-sixteenths in :18:35, for a final time of 1:53.72 (the fourth fastest in the race's 30 runnings). Devil His Due ran second throughout and was 2¼ lengths back at the wire.

STUART HAMAN

Concern rallied to finish third (his 22nd top-three performance in 24 starts). After the race, breeder/owner Robert Meyerhoff and trainer Dickie Small decided to avoid Cigar. Sent to the West Coast for his next start, Concern easily dispatched the field in the Grade 1 Californian at Hollywood Park.

Cigar's trainer Bill Mott noted about the ease of the Special win: "Maybe, on this particular day, we had an unfair advantage, but the horse ran a good race and he did it well within himself."

Even in the midst of the Triple Crown, excitement for Allen Paulson's homebred was building. "I've had more people comment on this horse than on any horse I've had in a long time," Mott told the *Daily Racing Form*. "Maybe he doesn't get as much press as a horse who's going in the Triple Crown, but that's a given, and you can't blame anybody for that. But as far as an older horse, I think he has a pretty big fan club."

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63-ACRE ESTATE FARM

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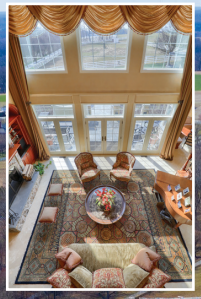

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2020 events canceled/postponed due to COVID-19

In addition to the suspension of racing at all Mid-Atlantic tracks in March, numerous other events connected to racing were canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. List is incomplete. For most current information, contact the specific event host.

Event	*State*	*Original Date*	*Status*	*New Date*	*Notes*
Mahoning Valley Meet	OH	Jan. 1-April 18	Postponed	TBA	
Aiken Spring Steeplechase	SC	March 21	Canceled		
Piedmont Point-to-Point	VA	March 21	Canceled		
Foxhall Team Chase	MD	March 22	Canceled		
Carolina Cup Races	SC	March 28	Canceled		
Cheshire Point-to-Point	PA	March 29	Postponed	June 14	
Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point	MD	March 29	Canceled		
Orange County Point-to-Point	VA	March 29	Canceled		
Aqueduct Spring Meet	NY	April 2-19	Canceled		Winter meet ended early
Keeneland Spring Meet	KY	April 2-24	Canceled		
Old Dominion Point-to-Point	VA	April 4	Postponed	Sept. 12	
Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point	MD	April 4	Canceled		
Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point	VA	April 5	Canceled		
Keeneland 2-year-olds & HORA sale	KY	April 7	Canceled		
Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference	MD	April 7-8	Postponed	TBA	
Tryon Block House Steeplechase	NC	April 11	Canceled		
My Lady's Manor	MD	April 11	Canceled		
Loudon Point-to-Point	VA	April 12	Canceled		
Indiana Grand Meet	IN	April 14	Postponed	TBA	
Lone Star Park Meet	TX	April 16	Postponed	TBA	Opening delayed
MATCH Series 2020		April 18-Oct. 10	Canceled		
Woodbine Race Course Meet	Can	April 18-Dec. 13			Opening delayed
Grand National Steeplechase	MD	April 18	Canceled		
Middleburg Spring Races	VA	April 18	Postponed	June 13	
Charles Town Classic	WV	April 18	Postponed	TBA	
Blue Ridge Point-to-Point	VA	April 19	Postponed	Sept. 19	
OBS Spring 2-year-olds sale	FL	April 21-24	Postponed	June 9-12	
Belterra Park Meet	OH	April 24-Sept. 25	Postponed	TBA	Opening delayed
Foxfield Spring Races	VA	April 25	Canceled		
Maryland Hunt Cup	MD	April 25	Canceled		
Queen's Cup Steeplechase	NC	April 25	Canceled		
Finger Lakes Meet	NY	April 25-Nov. 25	Postponed	TBA	Opening delayed
Middleburg Point-to-Point	VA	April 26	Postponed	June 7	
Hastings Park Meet	Can	April 26-Oct. 18	Postponed	TBA	Opening delayed
Churchill Downs Spring Meet	KY	April 25-June 27	Postponed	TBA	Opening delayed
Prairie Meadows Meet	IA	May 1-Sept. 26	Postponed	TBA	Opening delayed
Monmouth Park Meet	NJ	May 2-Sept. 27	Postponed	July 3	Opening delayed
Kentucky Derby	KY	May 2	Postponed	Sept. 5	
Virginia Gold Cup Steeplechase	VA	May 2	Postponed	June 20	
Howard County Point-to-Point	MD	May 2	Canceled		
Winterthur Steeplechase	DE	May 3	Canceled		
Iroquois Steeplechase	TN	May 9	Postponed	June 27	
Willowdale Steeplechase	PA	May 9	Canceled		
Radnor Hunt Races	PA	May 16	Canceled		
Fair Hill Races	MD	May 23	Canceled		
Preakness Stakes	MD	May 16	Postponed	TBA	
Potomac Point-to-Point	MD	May 17	Canceled		
Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-olds sale	MD	May 18, 19	Postponed	June 29, 30	
Santa Anita 2-year-olds sale	CA	June 3	Canceled		
Belmont Stakes	NY	June 6	Postponed	TBA	
Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program	MD	June 8-13	Postponed	TBA	
OBS June 2-year-olds & HORA sale	FL	June 10-12	Postponed	July 14-17	
MHBA Yearling Show	MD	June 28	Postponed	July 19	

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Demonstrative

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Richard Valentine understands love at first sight. He knows it's real. He's got the Eclipse Award trophy to prove it.

Valentine was in England for the 2010 Tattersalls July mixed sale when a sleek 3-year-old son of Elusive Quality grabbed his attention. Bred by Gainsborough Farm from the French Group 3-winning Quiet American mare Loving Pride, Demonstrative was offered by Kingsley House Stables. He listed one win among his 11 starts on the flat.

"He was one that Richard thought had the pedigree; he loved the Quiet American mares," said Valentine's long-time assistant, Laird George. "And from the minute Richard saw the horse, he loved him. It looked like Demonstrative wasn't going to do well in the UK, so luckily for us, they put him in the sale."

Hyphen Bloodstock signed the Tattersalls ticket for 25,000 guineas ($39,876) and Demonstrative headed to the Ohrstrom family's Whitewood Farm, Valentine's base of operations in The Plains, Va., to launch a career over hurdles for Jacqueline Ohrstrom.

Valentine and George schooled the horse themselves after his arrival, utilizing Whitewood's vast fields and hills. Demonstrative made his first American start at Middleburg in a maiden special weight for 3-year-olds over hurdles on Oct. 3, 2010.

"He won his first race over fences very convincingly with Matt McCarron at Middleburg," George said. "Then he ran at Far Hills [N.J.] and got run into at the start. Matt fell off, so he never started that race. Then he came right back at Camden and won again. He was champion 3-year-old that year. Yes, 2010 was good."

Demonstrative met his most frequent pilot, Robbie Walsh, in 2011. After two allowance starts that spring, Demonstrative and Walsh vaulted to open stakes company. It wasn't long before the bay established himself as a rising star on the steeplechase circuit.

"Horses like Demonstrative change how you ride. They're that good; they teach you as you ride them," Walsh said. "You know that when you put one in a bad spot that he gets you out of it. Or you know when you're getting caught in traffic—some horses just can't get out of that spot because they're not good enough. And he could. I could be more confident on him because I knew I could just wait that little bit longer to get that gap.

"We developed over the years," Walsh went on. "He was pretty keen early on, which I guess is partially why I suited him a little bit. I tend to get along with stronger horses because I can get them a little switched off. Richard always told me 'Be careful—remember now, you'll put a fire out.'"

Every season produced a sparkling Demonstrative highlight for the reel.

- 2011: a win in the William Entenmann novice stakes at Belmont Park.
- 2012: heavyweight triumphs in the Jonathan Kiser novice stakes and fabled New York Turf Writers Cup (the first Grade 1 for the horse and for Valentine) at Saratoga, and another Grade 1 score in the Colonial Cup at Camden, S.C. In the latter, he and McCarron (subbing for the injured Walsh) passed eight horses after the last fence to win by a length. The Eclipse Award went to Pierrot Lunaire by 17 votes (there were 36 abstentions).
- 2013: a season-opening win, by a neck over eventual Eclipse champion Divine Fortune, in Nashville's Calvin Houghland Iroquois-G1. Third-place finisher Molotof (Fr) was 34 lengths behind.

After four consecutive losses that year, plus one more to start 2014, Demonstrative returned to form with a second in the A.P. Smithwick—by a nose at 15-1. He won his next three, each a Grade 1, with powerhouse performances in the Turf Writers, the Lonesome Glory at Belmont and the Grand National at Far Hills. Demonstrative was voted the Eclipse Award as champion steeplechase horse of 2014 by a resounding margin.

Valentine re-employed a successful strategy in 2015, opening the gelding's season in the Iroquois at Nashville. With Jack Doyle subbing for the injured Walsh, Demonstrative won the final Grade 1 of his career. There were thirds in two additional Grade 1 tests: Saratoga's A.P. Smithwick Memorial, and the season-ending Colonial Cup. Demonstrative returned at age 9 in 2016, running just three times and finishing off the board. He retired with one of American jump racing's most decorated careers—seven Grade 1 wins, an Eclipse Award in 2014 and $940,300 in U.S. steeplechase earnings (fourth on the all-time list).

"A horse like him makes your career. Everyone knows who you are then,"

Walsh said. "Every time I went to the races, I was on a horse with a shot in a Grade 1; one of the favorites. You're consistently in the spotlight, and that's a big key about racing. You're only as good as the horses you ride. More than the volume of winners, it was the big days that were always the most important ones. They were the big buzz . . . to be on the best horses in the best races, that's what you live for."

Demonstrative went home to Valentine and George at Whitewood, but it's been an active retirement.

"I've hunted Demonstrative maybe half a dozen times over the last three years," George said. "He's brilliant; absolutely loves it. He stands with his ears pricked and he listens to the hounds. He's a professional."

Owner Jacqueline Ohrstrom winters in Aiken, S.C., but lives at her Berrywick Farm adjacent to Whitewood. When in Virginia she sees Demonstrative regularly, stopping by for visits and treats for her famous retiree.

"She likes her horses a lot, win, lose or draw," George said. "She might have missed a couple of his races, but once he established himself as a top horse, she didn't miss any of them."

Valentine winters with a string in Camden, but when home in Virginia he's often aboard Demonstrative. Now 13, the bay is the best possible educator and mentor for the youngsters coming along for Valentine.

"There are times when he gets ridden a lot," George said. "If somebody comes and it's in the middle of the season, perhaps they just want to ride a horse. You can put them on Demonstrative because he is just the kindest, coolest horse. He's very agreeable and has had an incredible disposition from the day he got here. Everything he's done has been effortless and professional. Barring one situation . . ."

Before one Saratoga meet began, Valentine and George decided to use a flat race at Colonial Downs as an early summer tune-up. Knowing it would require a refresher course in the starting gate, George vanned Demonstrative over to Middleburg Training Center, where an assistant starter (named Goose) from the Maryland Jockey Club helped out a few days each week. Given how easily the horse always handled anything thrown his way, George naturally assumed this revisit would be an easy task.

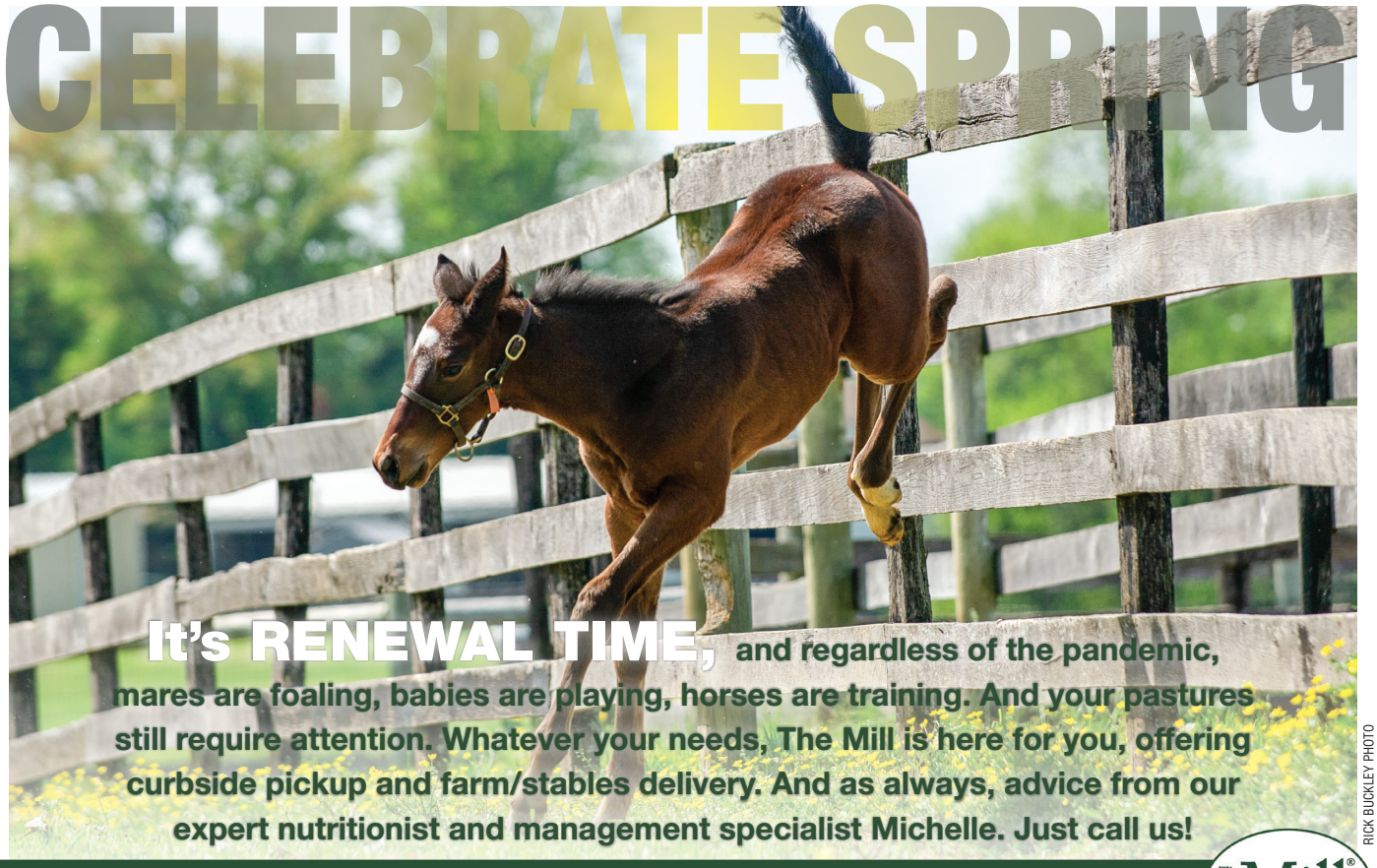
All the way up until the moment Demonstrative stood straight up in the stall and rattled the gate. Goose, who usually functioned under the belief that George was actually Valentine, issued a ruling.

"Richard, you better take that horse to Laurel where we have a whole gate crew."

Not long after, George, Kieran Norris and Demonstrative followed instructions and headed to Laurel Park.

"With the whole gate crew there, I sorta felt like it would go better this time," George said. "We walked into the gate and he reared up twice, and my helmet hit the top of the gate both times. They pulled me off, backed him out and asked what was going on with him. We told them we were just trying to run him at Colonial one time . . . and they all said, 'Maybe you should just keep running him over jumps.'

"And that was the only time Demonstrative has ever said no to anything." ✹



RICK BUCKLEY PHOTO

TOD MARKS

Uncertain times leave racing without answers

This time of year, tents are always part of the landscape at Pimlico Race Course and signal the coming of Preakness Day with its thousands of spectators, world-class horses, celebrities, big racing names, millions in wagering handle and massive economic impact.

In 2020, tents signal something else entirely as the track's parking lot was converted to a drive-through coronavirus testing facility in mid-April after the Preakness was postponed indefinitely, racing stopped in the state (and much of the nation) and the world adjusted to stay-at-home orders during a global pandemic. Through April 14, more than 25,000 people in the United States had died of COVID-19 (the disease caused by the virus) and more than 600,000 had tested positive. The worldwide totals topped 126,000 deaths and nearly two million cases.

Health experts expected all numbers to climb before a much-hoped-for leveling off and eventual decline due to social distancing, advanced testing capabilities and medical protocols.

The impact of the virus went far beyond Thoroughbred racing, but the sport took hits in both the short and long term. Racing continued in pockets of the country–Florida, Arkansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma were live in April–but the virus outbreak forced the closing of all tracks in the Mid-Atlantic and beyond. No regional state hosted racing after March 21, and there were no firm plans to resume. New York ceased then as well. Churchill Downs moved the Kentucky Derby to September while the Preakness and Belmont Stakes looked for answers, and new dates that made sense. The National Steeplechase Association's spring calendar was in shambles, pushed to three meets in June from 15 in March, April and May. In Kentucky, Keeneland's spring meet didn't happen, and neither did its spring 2-year-old sale. Fasig-Tipton canceled sales in Florida and California and moved its May 2-year-old sale in Maryland to late June. The Dubai World Cup was canceled. Hall of Fame jockey Javier Castellano contracted the virus. So did New Jersey-based trainer Jorge Duarte and bloodstock agent Brad Weisbord.

The virus, which began in China but in short order spread around the globe, shut down casinos, sports betting and off-track wagering sites, which fuel purses in every Mid-Atlantic racing state.

Outside of racing, the NCAA tournament was canceled, the NBA and NHL seasons put on hold. Millions began working from home. Schools and colleges closed basically nationwide. Workers were furloughed across every business sector including racetracks and casinos. Businesses of all types closed. Restaurants tried to exist on takeout and delivery orders. Breweries and distilleries converted to manufacturing hand sanitizer. The stock market crashed. Unemployment claims soared. Federal and state governments announced business-assistance programs, which were quickly flooded with applications. Non-essential travel decreased to almost zero. People were told to wear facemasks in public.

Meanwhile, Thoroughbreds ate, slept, drank and trained at racetracks, training centers and farms. The breeding industry, in the midst of foaling season, carried on with deliveries and matings. And horse people of all descriptions made decisions and looked ahead while also preparing for the worst.

Someday, racing would return, the sales would happen again, a vaccine or widespread testing would minimize the health risks for people. But everything, it seemed, was in doubt.

"Horse people are resilient, everybody's lived through tough times and loves it, that's why they do it. But for how long?" said Cricket Goodall, executive director of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. "Is that something that can live through this crisis? I think it can. It's a rhetorical question, but what does it look like on the other side? You look down the line and see the effects from breeders, owners, trainers, sales companies, pinhookers . . . it's not like one thing can save it. It's still going to take time for it all to recover."

Never was the phrase, "Everything is connected," so meaningful because a virus dismissed by some as no worse than a seasonal flu or as something other countries had to worry about jumped itself into mainstream discussion about every business and industry in the world.

"It's the complete unknown right now, complete," said TK Kuegler, a venture capitalist whose Wasabi Ventures stable races and breeds horses in the Mid-Atlantic and beyond. "Nobody understands it. No one knows what they're doing. You can't plan because you don't know what anything is going to look like."

A downturn was easy to predict. How much and in what form, not so simple. Would there be buyers for horses at auction? Would owners continue to pay bills? Could purse accounts and state breeders' funds weather the storm of no casino revenue? Could trainers continue to make payroll? What would happen if the virus spread through a racetrack backside? New York's Belmont Park had 25 confirmed cases, and one death (groom Martin Zapata from the Tom Morley stable) in early April.

The questions set racing in motion, in all directions.

Kuegler's Wasabi stable sent some horses to Oaklawn Park in 2019, and followed suit this year only to expand on that idea once the virus threatened racing in the Mid-Atlantic. In April, the stable's Trapped

N My Mind, a Maryland-based 4-year-old filly, finished third in a maiden race behind horses trained by Californians Bob Baffert and Peter Miller.

"She probably would have won in Maryland," said Kuegler, "but the people in California are thinking the same way we are."

As for Wasabi horses in Maryland, many were taken out of training.

"We kept five or six in training, mostly turf horses who you've got to assume are going to have somewhere to run at some point and need to get going," he said. "The dirt horses I shipped to the farm, cut the day rate by 60 percent and I hope that it's only 60 days and we can bring them back and they haven't lost too much conditioning."

Trainer Kieron Magee also followed that strategy, turning out 38 horses from his string based at Pimlico and opting to wait on the sidelines while the racing schedule reset itself.

"Kieron had a great winter and he made the perfect call for his horses," said Ann Merryman, another Pimlico-based trainer. "For us, we didn't have that many running and we have mostly turf horses and 2-year-olds who were going to be training now anyway."

Of course, reality presented those newcomers with a unique challenge—those tents that had nothing to do with the Preakness. Green, surrounded by concrete barriers and fed by a meandering path of traffic cones, they represented something bigger than racing even if they were mostly quiet in April.

"I don't know if anything much is happening with the testing yet," said Merryman in mid-April, "but you have had to be careful the 2-year-olds don't see it when they're galloping."

While some owners and trainers opted to cut costs and give horses time off, others stayed the course—hoping for a return to racing in whatever form state and federal authorities (and economic realities) will permit.

Neither course is guaranteed—not in the face of a highly contagious virus with no vaccine.

"People are looking around and trying to figure out a plan," said Kuegler. "Like everybody else we're trying to stay on the path, but the path is constantly shifting and we don't even know if we're on the path. We're on a path, or what we think is a path, but it might not be the path."

For now, the path for racing—and the world—weaved its way through social distancing, working from home and trying to stay healthy.

Where it led, nobody knew.

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

FINISH
FINISH

Full Stop

Regional racing on hold as virus effects wreck schedules

By Joe Clancy. Photographs by Jerry Dzierwinski

Like at other Mid-Atlantic racetracks shut down by the coronavirus outbreak, the Thoroughbreds and their caretakers at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course kept working with no clear map to the resumption of racing.

This much was known: the Preakness Stakes-G1 at Pimlico would not happen in May, for the first time since 1945. The Maryland Jockey Club postponed the second leg of the Triple Crown, with no make-up date announced by April 15, and canceled its accompanying infield fest concert. In March, Churchill Downs announced the rescheduling of the Kentucky Derby-G1 to Sept. 5 which left the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes-G1 in limbo with regard to choosing new dates. Options included following a traditional Triple Crown schedule (Preakness Sept. 19, Belmont Oct. 10), running before the Derby, canceling entirely or some other scenario as yet determined.

The Maryland Jockey Club issued a statement in early April: "The Stronach Group and the Maryland Jockey Club are continuing to work with our key stakeholders to explore all options to set a new date for the running of Preakness 145. Our first priority in these difficult times is the health and well-being of our customers, our vendors, our employees and the horses we all love. A decision will be made on a new date for Preakness 145 and will take into consideration all of the recommended best practices from local and governmental health authorities to protect our community."

Dave O'Rourke, NYRA CEO and president, issued a statement in mid-March: "NYRA is working closely with all appropriate parties, including media rights holder NBC Sports, to make a determination about the timing of the 2020 Belmont Stakes. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to upend American life, decisions about large-scale public events must prioritize public health and safety above all else. NYRA will deliver an announcement only when that process has concluded to the satisfaction of state and local health departments. The Belmont Stakes is a New York institution with wide-reaching economic impact. We look forward to its 152nd edition in 2020."

Beyond the Preakness, Maryland racing came to a halt March 15 with the state prohibiting public gatherings of more than 10 people. Laurel ran three cards without the public in early March, and had planned to continue–as racing did at a small handful of tracks in other states outside the region–until that decision.

The move put racing on hold, but did little to stop the work done by trainers and their staffs in the stable areas. Human health became an important part of the equation, however. All people entering the stable area had their temperatures checked daily, and were subjected to a weekly questionnaire based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocol. Hand sanitizing stations were placed throughout the barn area and the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association distributed educational materials about preventing the spread of the virus, and educated horsemen about the impacts on their businesses. Most importantly, horse care and safety remained a priority even if a return to racing couldn't be predicted.

"Every trainer's different," said Laurel-based trainer Tim Keefe, president of the MTHA, in early April. "With it changing every day, nobody knows what's going to happen, I'm just holding steady. I backed off everything. We're training six days a week, but not working on a regular schedule. I just kind of backed off and we're maintaining fitness as best we can."

That plan seemed to be the obvious choice, for now, and was similar to most trainers in the barn areas. Horses remained in light training. Others further from racing stayed at farms or had their schedules delayed. Timed workouts and trips to the starting gate (where assistant starters wore face masks) decreased, as did the numbers of 2-year-olds in some barns.

"The hard thing from a training standpoint is I had horses in that weekend we canceled that were first-time starters, and I'm sure other people did too," said Keefe. "You have a 3-year-old ready to make the first start of his life, and now you're left in limbo. You got him as fit as he's ever been, prepared him for that first race, and then it didn't happen. That's a challenge as a trainer, that's not an easy situation even if we know this is serious and there weren't any other options."

Laurel's leading trainer Claudio Gonzalez was supposed to run rising stable star Lebda in the $200,000 Federico Tesio (which offered a spot in the Preakness to the winner) April 18. Instead, horse and trainer will wait.

"Everybody is on the same page–you, me, the horses," Gonzalez said. "Everybody. It's different. You go easier. All my horses run a lot and now I have to give

them a little break and not train them too hard."

With help from the MJC and MTHA, trainers stressed health and safety with employees. Separating people, disinfecting equipment regularly, using the hand sanitizing stations became part of the workday.

"We're careful in the tack room," said Keefe. "My exercise riders do tack. One is in the room, one is in the shedrow. Grooms and hotwalkers stay as far apart as they can. Everything's disinfected. It's always been cleaned thoroughly, but a little extra now."

Laurel and Pimlico are home to hundreds of people who work in the barns and another 350 come through the stable gates each day as employees, trainers, veterinarians and vendors. Maintaining their safety was a priority, as was preserving their jobs. The MJC closed the stable areas to nonessential personnel, followed recommendations from the CDC and created a wellness committee to check on backstretch employees during the crisis.

"We are doing everything we can to keep everyone safe, because it's dangerous," said Gonzalez. "I'm scared, for the families. That's why I told my employees they have to take care because it's tough for everybody. Everybody is always washing their hands and not getting too close, everything we can do to be safe."

All facets of the racing industry worried about the economics in play. No racing means no income from purses for owners, which translates to no commissions to trainers and a tighter overall financial picture. Trainers have payroll, insurance and other expenses in addition to the various ingredients needed for horse care–hay, feed, bedding and so on.

Trainer Lacey Gaudet was being optimistic, with an eye on her business.

"Our clients have said, 'Keep them for as cheap as you can afford to and not go broke,' and we've done that for some," she said. "We have a lot that just came in–3-year-olds who ran a lot last year, turf horses, that kind of thing. They need a couple months of training. Hopefully, this will end, and we will see some normalcy."

While some trainers and other horse businesses cut numbers and payroll, Gaudet took the opportunity to add staff.

"We hired a groom, we hired an exercise rider who was out of a job," she said. "We're trying to be optimistic and to me it looks optimistic to think about [racing] again. We're taking it 10 days or two weeks at a time and then we'll see."

The MTHA, with the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and that state's Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, hosted a webinar about the government assistance programs from the Small Business Administration, states and other sources. More than 400 people took part. The National Thoroughbred Racing Association held a similar seminar addressing federal options. Early on, there was some talk of a racing-industry stimulus package involving dormant purse accounts but that could have created problems for the return of racing.

"We're horsemen, we're much better in the barn than we are in the office," said Keefe. "But we have to take advantage of these things. We have to get past our anxiety, talk to our accountants. I hope horsemen do that. That's why we did that webinar, to help horsemen navigate through that."

Trainer Kieron Magee took the seemingly dramatic step of closing his barn at Pimlico, sending his 38 horses to nearby farms and laying off his barn staff. He was looking at a May 15 target date for ramping back up.

"I own a lot of them myself and if I don't own all of them I own half of them," said Magee, second in the Laurel standings this winter with 18 wins. "I thought to survive this and not knowing when the end would come it was a perfect time to give them some time off. When they called Laurel off that day [March 20], by 36 hours afterward all my horses were at the farm."

Magee weighed the risks–racing may return while his horses are out of training, some owners may opt for other trainers, his staff may find other jobs and plenty of other scenarios–but he made a decision.

His staff will collect unemployment, his owners will be charged a reduced day rate and his horses get some time off while racing sorts itself out.

"I didn't see them racing in April, maybe they'll be back halfway through May or by the end of May," he said. "I just tried to take a shot and make the guess.

"The horses are liking it so far. I don't know if I'll be right or wrong. To keep training them and hoping they'll get to run someday was the wrong decision for me, and for my horses." ✹

NO FLASH PHOTOS PLEASE
pimlico
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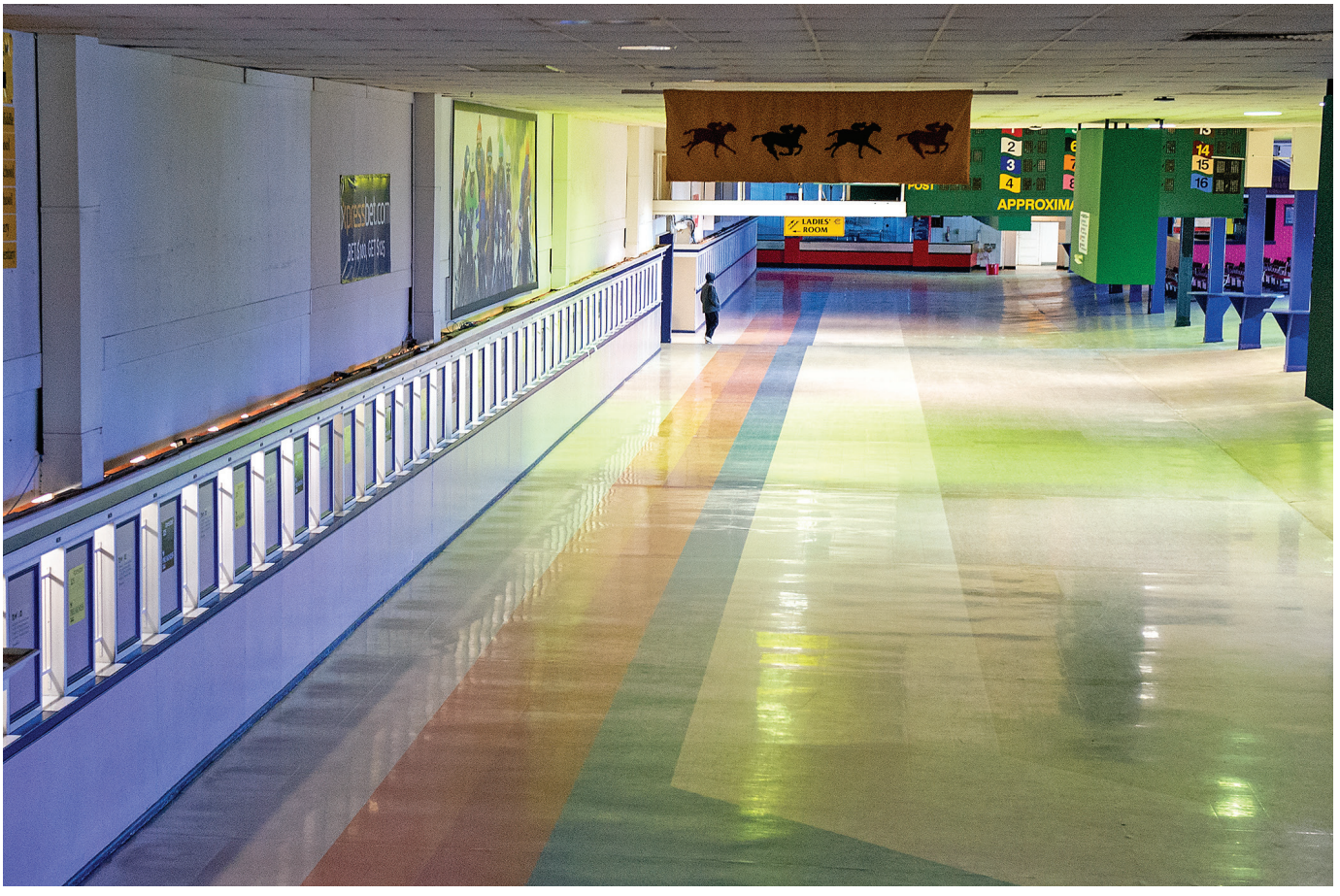
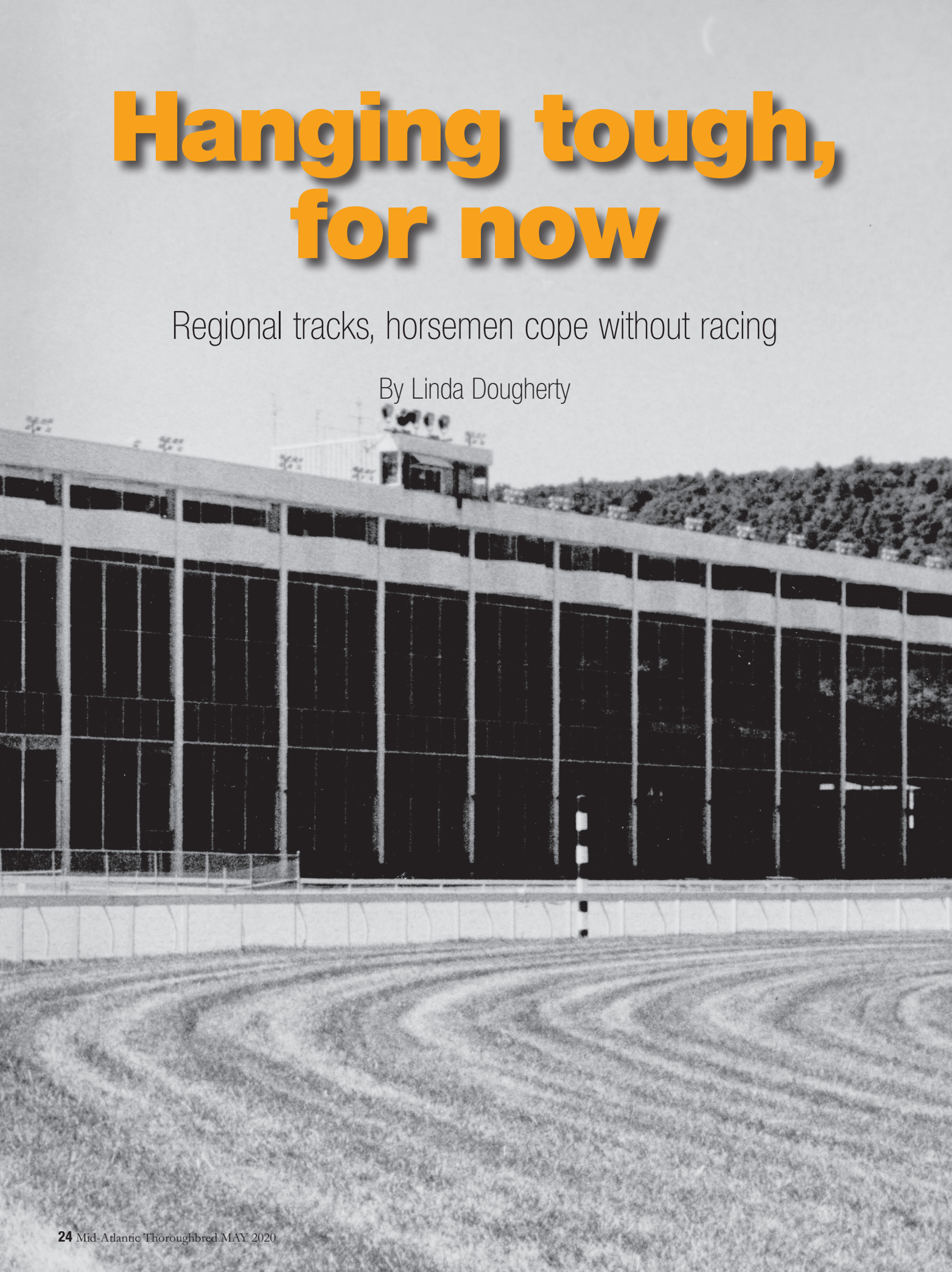

LADIES' ROOM
APPROXIMA

Hanging tough, for now

Regional tracks, horsemen cope without racing

By Linda Dougherty



As restrictions were implemented in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, racetracks in Pennsylvania ceased live racing while their backstretch communities there and in Delaware grappled with everyday living.

At Parx Racing in Bensalem, Pa., the last day of live racing was March 10. The main track remained open for training five days a week, and the majority of owners and trainers kept their horses on the backstretch, rather than send them to a farm.

Soon after shutting down, Parx management required all backstretch employees to sign a "Waiver and Release of All Claims" document which stated they would not sue if they contracted COVID-19 while at Parx; if they did not, they would not be allowed through the stable gate. Beginning March 25, the stable area was closed to incoming horses.

Questions directed to David Osojnak, Parx director of racing, were routed through upper management, and were unanswered at the time of writing.

Stables large and small were feeling the effects of the shutdown. Ed Coletti Jr., who trains more than 20 horses and is a new member of the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association board

Penn National

of directors, said he was trying to keep his horses in condition as of April 1. But, he said, times could get rough if the shutdown was prolonged.

"We're all getting desperate, to be honest," he said. "There's no racing, no way to make money. I've kept all my horses at the track, and I'm trying to keep all my help and not lay anyone off.

"We have a lot more smaller, mom-and-pop owners here than on the bigger circuits," he said. "It's going to be hard for them to keep paying the bills if this shutdown goes for more than a month or two. They have mortgages, families to feed."

Lou Linder Jr., who also trains a barnful of horses on the Parx backstretch, said he might be forced to reduce his workforce.

"We're training, but we can't run or ship anywhere," he said. "I may have to lay off two of my guys; I hate to do it, but I don't have a choice."

Kate DeMasi, who has horses at Parx and Penn National, was working to maintain her staff levels.

"I haven't had to lay anyone off so far," said the PTHA board member. "Everyone is in the same boat. Here at Parx, we've experienced quarantines before (a 21-day quarantine due to the Equine Herpes Virus in January 2019 and similar quarantines in 2013, 2015 and 2016), so we are familiar with the procedures."

DeMasi said that an issue facing many horsemen during the extended shutdown is that of boredom, or being idle.

"We're used to putting in long days from sunup to sundown," she said. "We're training, entering, running, claiming, going to sales . . . it's something that most horsemen aren't used to."

Penn National

At Penn National in Grantville, Pa., the shutdown of live racing took effect March 14. Horsemen and employees were required to sign a "Waiver and Release of All Claims," the exact document Parx horsemen had to sign (just the racetrack name was changed), which stated they would not sue management in the event they contract COVID-19 on the premises.

Chris McErlean, vice president of Penn National Gaming, said it was too soon to say what the plan would be to reschedule lost live race days.

"Our focus is getting through this current situation and then we will regroup and evaluate internally and with horsemen," he said.

Trainer Erin McClellan said she was lucky to have the support of her owners during the shutdown, and while she hasn't had to lay off any employees or send horses to the farm, she understands that a prolonged period of no racing could change that.

"These are unprecedented times and sometimes it is difficult to know how to move forward but we do," she said. "As long as we continue to train and our owners are comfortable in their situation we will continue to support our help. That being said, I do know of other horsemen who have lost some of their horses as a result of COVID-19 and have had to lay off employees.

"Our industry instills resiliency and hope in people," she continued. "Horsemen are tough and we will all get through this."

McClellan said the Pennsylvania Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association was the saving grace for horsemen—assuming the cost needed to keep the track open for training when management declined to do so, due to lost business from having to shutter their casinos.

"We're paying $66,000 per month to keep the racetrack open for training," said Todd Mostoller, executive director of the HBPA. "We felt it was important that we keep training, and in the best interest of the horses. We will help our horsemen in need. Right now, nobody has all the answers."

David Bushey, who runs Bush Racing Stable with his father Brian, said they were doing some business continuity planning to determine if and when to make changes with the horses they have in training. The stable has horses with Tim Kreiser at Penn National, Lacey Gaudet in Maryland and Ray Handal in New York.

"Thankfully we had a pretty good start to the year and won three straight just prior to the shutdown, but that money won't last long," said Bushey. "As a medium-size claiming stable, we rely heavily on purse money in order to keep our operation viable."

Bushey said that many owners might be forced to find new homes for lower-level claimers if the shutdown stretches out across many months.

"It's tough to justify months of day rate you'll likely never recoup in future earnings [with lower-level claimers]," he said. "The downstream effect of a shutdown is terrible for so many people—jockeys, agents, vets, farriers—the list goes on and on."

Bushey pointed out that the average monthly cost to maintain a horse at Penn National and Laurel is anywhere from $2,400-$3,000.

"When you consider that low-level claimers run for $10,000-$15,000 in purse money, an owner is set to net $4,700-$7,100 after you take out the jockey and trainer expenses [10 percent each], and other expenses for the win," he said. "Depending on risk tolerance and financial situation, an owner may not be willing to invest $5,000-$6,000 [for a two-month shutdown] into a cheaper horse knowing that there is little chance to get back into the black, let alone even pay the bills."

Delaware Park

While the 2020 racing season was not set to begin until May 27, the backstretch at Delaware Park was a busy place in March, with horsemen on the grounds for training and stabling.

Delaware employed one of the most unique and stringent methods for keeping the stable area free from COVID-19 since Gov. John Carney announced stay-at-home orders March 22.

Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 and above was refused entry into the stable area, and those whose temperatures were normal would get a wristband to wear, with colors changing daily. Those living on the backstretch had to report to the safety steward's office to have their temperatures checked.

The protocol was developed between Delaware Park management, Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission acting executive director Sarah Crane, safety steward Eric Courieux, and Bessie Gruwell, executive director of the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

"The system is relatively smooth," said Gruwell. "We've used a different color wristband every day—so we could easily tell if someone's temperature was taken when they returned at feed time or for maintenance employees that work for Delaware Park.

"If Gov. Carney's stay-at-home orders remain in effect for a prolonged period," she continued, "I can't imagine our race meet will start as scheduled."

Delaware's 83rd live racing season was set to run 85 days through Oct. 31.

Presque Isle Downs

The start of the 13th season at Presque Isle Downs in Erie, Pa., was in limbo as of the end of March as the coronavirus rampaged across America.

Live racing had been expected to commence May 11 and run through Oct. 22, but that schedule wasn't likely to happen, according to Mostoller, executive director of the Pennsylvania HBPA, which represents horsemen at Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.

"We decided that it would be difficult to open the track for training before the end of April, so we might have to push back the start of racing," said Mostoller, who said he was in discussions with track representatives. "And because slot revenues help fund purses, the stakes schedule might have to be tweaked."

The first stakes race on the 2020 calendar was the $100,000 guaranteed Tom Ridge Stakes, set for Monday, May 18. The meet's highlight, the $400,000 Presque Isle Downs Master Stakes-G2, had been scheduled for Monday, Sept. 21.

✹

Like others, West Virginia halts racing on state stay-at-home order

By Tom LaMarra

Two days after live racing was halted by Gov. Jim Justice because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races was able to resume its racing program under strict guidelines that included closing the grandstand to the public.

On the evenings of March 20-21, the track operated with only essential personnel and additional restrictions in the stable area. The operation was successful given the short notice, but the return to live racing was short-lived.

On March 23, Justice issued a stay-at-home order, and a day later Charles Town announced a shutdown until further notice.

"We only raced the two nights under those conditions," said Erich Zimny, vice president of racing and sports operations at Charles Town. "It worked well, but it was obvious as the [COVID-19] situation progressed and got worse it was made clear it was not the right decision to go on."

Access was limited to licensed owners, trainers and essential personnel. Owners, however, were only permitted on nights their horses were racing. Family members or guests of licensed participants weren't permitted access, nor were individuals under 16 years of age.

But that didn't seem to matter. The primary focus was simply having racing opportunities.

"People were far more receptive to staying away," Zimny said. "I don't think there was one owner there, except for the owners who also train. But I think it gave some people a sense of normalcy in as safe an environment that we could provide."

The night of racing before the shutdown at Charles Town marked the successful return of Grams Racing Stable's Runnin'toluvya, who had been on the sidelines since his troubled last-place finish in the West Virginia Breeders Classic last October.

The winner of almost $1 million returned to the work tab for trainer Tim Grams Feb. 10 and worked another three times at Charles Town in preparation for his 2020 debut. He was nominated for a $35,000 overnight stakes on March 21, but that event was replaced with a $32,500 West Virginia-bred allowance race with no conditions.

The scratch of Little Big Sime left a field of four in a race that pitted Runnin'toluvya against David Raim's Penguin Power, who closed 2019 with seven consecutive wins. The Jeff Runco trainee set a quick pace with Runnin'toluvya never worse than a length and a half behind. Penguin Power opened his advantage turning for home but Runnin'toluvya wore him down to win by 2 lengths in 1:25.31 for 7 furlongs.

Mean Bean and North Atlantic rounded out the order of finish in the top-quality state-bred race on a night in which Charles Town fell less than $1,000 shy of $1.5 million in total pari-mutuel handle, and the previous night handled $1.25 million. With other tracks having suspended racing, the previous Saturday night's eight race-card generated $1.9 million in wagering, roughly $700,000 higher than a typical Saturday.

"There's no question that when the market shrank [from various closures] and people needed something to watch or wager on, it was a factor," Zimny said. "Racing, unlike a casino, doesn't need a single person [on site] to bring in some revenue [from wagering]."

When the best of the West Virginia-bred runners would square off again remained to be seen in early April. Track management had to alter its racing schedule given the uncertainty about when the shutdown would be lifted. Because the casino at Charles Town was closed before live racing was suspended, video lottery terminal revenue for the purse account dried up. In light of that, management and horsemen agreed to drop five racing programs – four Wednesdays from late March through mid-April and Sunday, May 10.

The $1 million Charles Town Classic-G2 and multiple open stakes set for April 18 will be rescheduled, but the track was still hoping to card the four state-bred stakes scheduled for that day if live racing resumed in time.

Regarding the training of horses, Charles Town implemented a revised schedule in late March. Training was permitted Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday for horses in the care of trainers with stalls on the grounds. To limit traffic in the barn area, horses were permitted to ship only on Wednesdays.

Feed and hay vendors were required to contact the racing office prior to a delivery in the stable area, open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The track kitchen remained open, but offered takeout service only.

Charles Town enacted protocol similar to that in other states in the region in regard to health and safety measures on the backstretch.

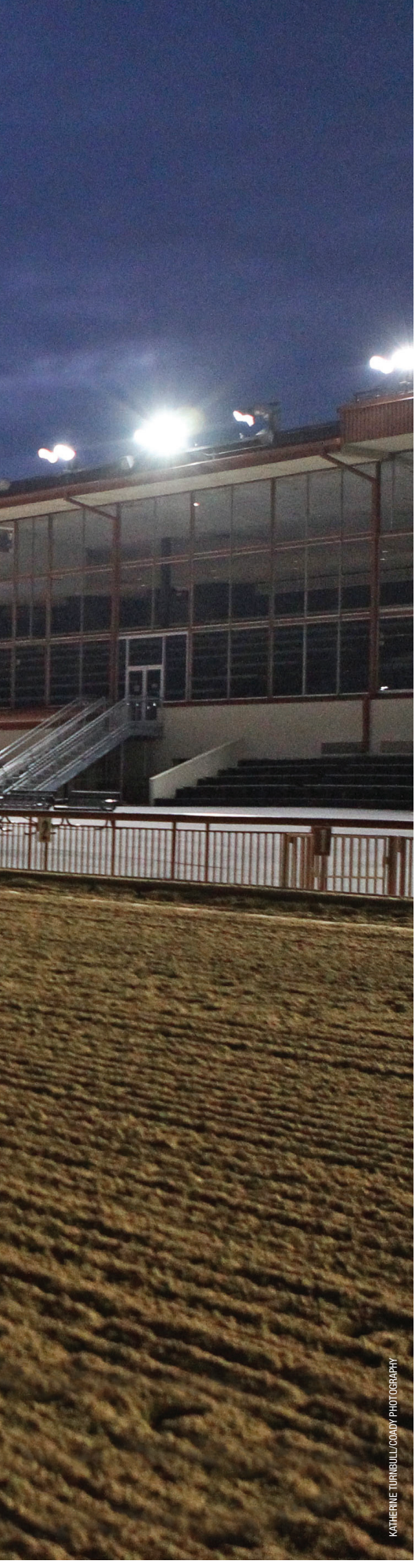
Along with social distancing while at work, the use and sanitizing of equipment and stalls was emphasized. Best practices included assigning equipment to specific personnel and not storing the equipment in the same place; spraying, soaking and wiping equipment each day; and cleaning things such as doorknobs, stall gates, door handles and counters frequently.

Most of the measures were temporary, though some tied to health and safety could serve as best practices going forward.

"A lot of this stuff has utility now, but sure, we'll look at stuff [going forward] if it's good," Zimny said. "There are a lot of things people took for granted that they don't do in their everyday lives."

Maria Catignani, executive director of the Charles Town Horsemen's Benevolent

Horses return after the last race at Charles Town on March 21 in front of an empty grandstand.


KATHERINE TURNBULL/COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

and Protective Association, said the horsemen's office remained open on a Tuesday-Saturday schedule but all business was conducted without in-person contact.

"I think it has gone pretty smoothly from an operating perspective," she said. "We weren't open for walk-ins but let everyone know to take any method–phone, email, fax–to communicate with us. We circulated information about the available loan programs to give people financial assistance."

The local chaplaincy program already has a food bank, but the horsemen's group added another one. The Charles Town HBPA also paid the costs related to keeping the racetrack open for training.

Catignani said it took a couple of days for horsemen to adjust to the training changes, but thereafter things went well. The West Virginia Racing Commission, because of lack of manpower during the shutdown, couldn't maintain licensing services but allowed those with permits set to expire April 30 to have continued backstretch access until they could be relicensed.

"Everybody is really working very hard to keep the business as normal as possible in a very difficult time," Catignani said. "Our first and foremost goal is the safety, health and care of our horses and the safety, health and care of the people taking care of the horses."

At the other end of West Virginia, Mountaineer Racetrack also was shuttered after the order from the governor. The track's 2020 race meet was scheduled to begin April 26, but the opening date, as well as when the barn area would open, remained up in the air in early April.

With casinos closed, tracks such as those in West Virginia that rely heavily on purse revenue derived from gaming could have to make adjustments to racing schedules at the outset. And the go-ahead to race again, most likely with essential personnel only for a period of time, isn't a matter of flipping a switch.

"The biggest impediment I see is horses who weren't in hard training may not be ready–that could cause the biggest time lag to when we can open and when we actually do open," Zimny said. "[A decision on the return of live racing] is bigger than any of us. When we are allowed to proceed, we'll have to take steps to ramp back up."

Monmouth eyes late opening, Colonial still on schedule

By Tom Law

New Jersey trailed only New York in the number of coronavirus cases through early April and officials at Monmouth Park were forced to shift the track's opening of the 75th anniversary season back from May 2 to July 3. All activity at Monmouth–including simulcasting and sports betting–ceased March 16, a few days before a state-mandated shutdown of nonessential businesses.

Monmouth's barn area was scheduled to open April 11 and that was initially pushed back to May and then to June 1 while the racing office revises the first condition book and tries to look ahead toward a racing schedule that starts in July. How it all works remains to be seen.

"I basically just threw it away," John Heims, Monmouth's director of racing and racing secretary, said in early April about the first condition book.

"The hardest part for us is we have people that are coming in from a lot of different places. We had some interest from

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Fair Grounds, Oaklawn, some new guys that we hope still come. As this meet gets further down the line I'm not sure what their plans will be. I hope they still come."

The first five days of the meet's condition book featured five stakes and another four were written for May 23, including the $150,000 Salvator Mile-G3 and $150,000 Monmouth-G3. Heims said he hoped to bring back the races lost in a later book or as extras, with the caveat that the adjusted Opening Day will go off as hoped.

"I don't know if that's ambitious at this point," Heims said. "It's probably too early to tell where we're heading and in terms of where we've been."

The $1 million TVG.com Haskell Invitational-G1 anchors the meet July 18 and is one of 12 graded stakes scheduled for 2020.

Churchill Downs' decision to shift the Kentucky Derby-G1 from its traditional first Saturday in May to Saturday, Sept. 5, figures to change the Haskell significantly from how it's looked for much of the previous 51 editions.

"It could be totally different," Heims said. "We always shot for the horses that came out of the Triple Crown, now it looks like we'll get horses that are going for the Triple Crown. It's a whole new ballgame.

"I haven't heard anything out of Churchill as far as what they're doing with points for the summer races but as we sit now we're seven weeks out from the Derby. I guess we still need to see what everybody else is going to do but we have a TV contract with NBC. Whether that changes or not we don't know. Maybe there's opportunity now with the Olympics not being contested that if they wanted to change that it could. It's too early to say if we're going to do anything but I like our position at this point. A lot of trainers like that kind of spacing."

Colonial Downs

Colonial Downs features the latest opening of any of the region's tracks and management in New Kent, Va., is optimistic to hit the targeted start to the second race meeting following last year's successful return from a nearly five-year hiatus.

"We're going along, status quo, because who knows?" said Jill Byrne, Colonial's vice president of racing. "We're preparing as if everything will be happening as it's supposed to. We're preparing to open the barn area July 9, that's two weeks before Opening Day, July 23."

Colonial Downs Group followed guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and temporarily closed its four Rosie's Gaming Emporium facilities indefinitely March 15 while committing to pay its employees through the end of April. The track operator also committed to serving free "grab and go" meals to coronavirus first responders during the crisis through its Hungry Heroes program.

Byrne said about 3,000 meals were served to doctors, nurses, police officers, grocery store workers and others dealing with the crisis over a week's span in late March into early April and that more than 20,000 had been served overall through April 6.

"This is a good company, they're good people and doing what they can to take care of their employees and the community," Byrne said.

Work continued in some parts of the racetrack, including the scheduled controlled burn of the turf course March 30. Construction projects in other parts of the facility also continued in late winter and early spring, including work on surveillance camera installation in the stable area, barns not used at the 2019 meet and a second upgrade to the turf course's irrigation system.

"The good thing about any work like that is it's outside," Byrne said. "Our crew is still following all protocol of masks and gloves, no more than 10 people in an area at a time. We're doing some work on some of the back barns, getting them renovated.

"We just completed that [April 3]. We didn't open all the barns last year, most of them but not all of them, and we'll have all the barns available this year. All that stuff is ongoing, any jobs that needed to be done in the stable area, that is work as normal."

Racing secretary Allison DeLuca and most of the team, which includes assistant Sam Elliott, were wrapping up the Tampa Bay Downs meeting in early April and were planning to publish the condition book around May 1. Byrne also said stall applications would go out by late April.

Colonial announced just before the health crisis shut down much of the U.S. that it would run Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from July 23 to Aug. 29, with a scheduled post time of 5:30 p.m. The track planned for an average daily purse distribution of $500,000, with the $250,000 Virginia Derby-G3 and $150,000 Virginia Oaks run Closing Day headlining the stakes schedule.

"The purse structure for now remains the same, $500,000 a day," Byrne said. "Obviously who knows come July 23 if there has to be an adjustment made to that. We'll have to see but we're still on target for the regular stakes program."

Fair Hill

Home to several hundred horses who race at regional tracks, but without housing for barn employees, Maryland's Fair Hill Training Center carried on while keeping an eye on state mandates and guidance from health officials.

The clockers' tower occupancy was limited and trainers adjusted their schedules for no regional racing.

"It's slower around here," said general manager Sally Goswell. "People are not

First responders enjoy free "grab and go" meals provided at all four Rosie's Gaming Emporiums in Virginia. Below, Colonial Down's annual turf burn still took place March 30.

COURTESY OF COLONIAL DOWNS (3)

feeling the pressure to train on Sundays, people watch their horses train from their cars or spaced out along the rail."

Fair Hill cut its gate crew (which comes from Parx Racing) to two days a week from three, but extended hours. Crew members wear face masks and keep an empty stall between horses. There was some concern about trainers and employees returning from Florida and Louisiana, but some stayed out of Fair Hill longer than usual this spring. Others told staff to self-isolate for two weeks before returning to work.

Work around the plant stayed on schedule. Goswell works alone in the office and maintenance personnel are typically solo as well.

"We maintain the tracks, like normal, we're trying to keep ahead of the mowing and everything else we do," she said. "We're trying to make sure our employees stay healthy, but it's not much different. We're holding off on some optional things we might have done, we're not bringing in outside contractors and we limit contact around the maintenance building."

In early April, Maryland prohibited horse riding on public lands which closed the fields and trails to trail riders and horses from the training center. Like Laurel and Pimlico and other training facilities, Fair Hill was permitted to operate and horses could be exercised–but had to stay within the 300 leased acres on the Department of Natural Resources property.

Economically, Fair Hill was carrying on. Barns are privately owned and owners pay fees to support the upkeep of common areas such as the racetracks. Brief racing closures were of a concern to individual trainers, but not necessarily to the overall business. A prolonged time with no racing could have a bigger impact.

"Short term, there's not that much difference and our operation is least affected probably," Goswell said. "If it goes on a long time, if there's no racing for a long long time, and people close up their barns, that's the worry. It sounds extreme but it's out there. I just hope everyone can weather the storm of not racing for a while."

– Joe Clancy

Training went on as usual at Fair Hill with limited clockers' tower occupancy and no access to public fields and trails.

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

No Jumping

Steeplechase schedule loses 12 meets, targets June return

By Joe Clancy. Photographs by Carol Fenwick

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In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the National Steeplechase Association attempted to salvage an abbreviated spring season with the latest version consisting of just four stops in June.

A dozen meets were canceled–Aiken, Carolina Cup, Tryon Block House, My Lady's Manor, Grand National, Maryland Hunt Cup, Foxfield, Queen's Cup, Radnor, Willowdale, Winterthur and Fair Hill–with the four remaining dates pending updates to federal, state and local guidelines.

"We've taken on a position of social responsibility," said Al Griffin, president of the NSA and co-chair of the Virginia Gold Cup race meet. "We do not want to create a venue that would exacerbate the current conditions. State governments started making calls early and taking decisions out of our hands and our race meets' hands and now we rely on state health officials, but there was some confusion with our March race meets because they came early in the process."

The NSA season was supposed to start at Aiken in South Carolina March 21, with some point-to-points preceding that date. Virginia point-to-points Rappahannock and Warrenton ran March 7 and 14, respectively.

Once cancellations happened, versions of the NSA calendar included start dates in May or early June, and additional rescheduled meets, but those plans changed as the effects of the virus expanded. South Carolina issued a statement against public gatherings, which forced Aiken's closure. Virginia's order prohibited public gatherings through June 10, which impacted Middleburg's original make-up date of June 6. In early April, cancellation of the rescheduled Foxfield Races June 13 gave room for Middleburg to back up a week and get outside the state's timeline. The Fair Hill Races, forced to relocate due to reconstruction of the course, moved from late May at Laurel to early June at Shawan Downs to being canceled. A $100,000 purse supplement for Fair Hill comes from slots proceeds, but must be used at a facility licensed by the Maryland Racing Commission.

To help horses and horsemen prepare for the short schedule, Shawan scheduled two days of trials June 6-7. The races are not sanctioned by the NSA, but will provide racing opportunities and some important preps for horses coming off long layoffs as the most recent NSA races occurred in November.

"That will be an important piece, and we're grateful to Shawan for making it happen," said Griffin. "We have some young riders coming up and they were supposed to get a chance at the NSA level this year and their opportunities have been taken away. We've been trying to create opportunities for them and the races at Shawan will help."

Trainer Jack Fisher (right) gives orders to riders before a schooling session at Locust Hill Farm in Butler, Md.

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Officially, the schedule was slated to begin with the Middleburg Spring Races at Glenwood Park in Virginia June 13. Organizers expanded the card, typically run in April, to include nine races headlined by the $100,000 Temple Gwathmey hurdle stakes.

A day after Middleburg, Pennsylvania's Cheshire Point-to-Point was slated to include an NSA-sanctioned timber race for amateur/apprentice jockeys in memory of Paddy Neilson.

Two NSA fixtures normally conducted in May complete the calendar, with the Virginia Gold Cup Races June 20 and the Iroquois Steeplechase June 27. The Gold Cup card includes the $75,000 David Semmes Memorial hurdle stakes and the $75,000 Virginia Gold Cup timber stakes. The Iroquois planned to offer $380,000 worth of races highlighted by the $150,000 Iroquois hurdle stakes.

Griffin cautioned that all dates were tentative and subject to guidance from public health officials.

"We're not out of the woods by any stretch, but we felt it was important to have some kind of a season–for horsemen, for horses, for the spectators who support our meets," he said. "We want to have a racing season, and we wanted to publish a schedule that had a chance of working."

In April, June seemed like the safest bet.

The abbreviated calendar left owners and trainers with decisions about keeping horses in training, adjusting schedules for summer stops at Saratoga or other racetracks (also in doubt) or waiting until September and what could be a full autumn season.

Like their peers with flat horses, steeplechase trainers dealt with the schedule issues as best they could. Horses were fit, or relatively so, but there was no racing.

"We're doing a lot of training and they all train well, but there are no results," said Pennsylvania-based trainer Ricky Hendriks. "It's like training when there's a snowstorm, but there's no snow. You can't go anywhere, nothing's open, it's weird. I'll be on the farm for three or four days at a time and never leave."

Hendriks was aiming stakes horses Zanjabeel (GB) and Surprising Soul for the Iroquois, and will stay on that target though the prep schedule changed. Normally, championship-level horses would run in the Temple Gwathmey in April and come back to the Iroquois a month later. Now, the races are just two weeks apart–with another open stakes–the Semmes at the Gold Cup the week between. Even with an adjusted schedule, horses are not going to make all three, which could alter the goals.

The Hendriks stable planned to be busy early in the season with 13 potential entries for Aiken.

"We had to back off of them," he said. "You had to invent things to do with the horses. We took a set of hurdle horses and puttered around in the woods with them–jumped logs, walked through streams and things. That kept them occupied for a couple days. We took some timber horses and went cross country. They liked that."

Trainer Kate Dalton followed a similar strategy with her runners, utilizing the various options in and around Springdale Training Center in Camden, S.C.

"We're lucky here," she said. "The Carolina Cup course was beautiful, ready for racing and it was in great shape. They opened it up to people to use at our discretion. It's another place to train. We have turnout and trails in the woods and things."

But racehorses are always training toward a race, with a goal in mind, and there were no races and no goals.

"You don't want to lose the fitness that you have so you keep doing what you're doing but you're not going anywhere," Dalton said. "You're usually trying to build-up to something. Now you're in this strange holding pattern. You're hoping it's not so long that you stop and turn them out and let them down, but . . . you're doing maintenance gallops and trying to keep them healthy and happy so when racing does go on again, you're ready."

Dalton and Hendriks said their owners were on board with the new schedule

(or lack of a schedule) and kept horses in training for now. The new lineup of races did claim a few however as Dalton stopped with a maiden filly who would have fit at Aiken to point for Colonial Downs and Hendriks opted to wait for the fall with a horse who doesn't appreciate hot weather.

Through it all, horsemen tried to remain pragmatic.

"You never expect for something like this to happen but you expect a bad year, it's the horse business," said Dalton. "If you're in the game, you're going to eat a year somewhere in there and I guess that's this year for all of us."

NOTES: Last year's steeplechase champion Winston C (Ire) was training early in the year, but was put away for Saratoga – where he won two Grade 1 stakes in 2019 – by Hudson River Farms and trainer Jonathan Sheppard . . . Trainer Jack Fisher's open stakes horses Scorpiancer (Ire) and Moscato (GB) – first and third in last year's Iroquois – were pointing for starts as was 2019 novice champion Snap Decision and filly/mare stakes winner Pravalaguna (Fr). New purchase Footpad (Fr), a Grade 1 winner in England, Ireland and France, was being aimed for the Iroquois but won't follow that path now . . . Potential timber runners included 2019 Gold Cup winner Andi'amu (Fr), Doc Cebu, Schoodic, Mystic Strike and Super Saturday. ✹

DOUGLAS LEES

Maryland Hunt Cup hero Senior Senator dies of colic

Star timber horse Senior Senator, who missed a chance to win a fourth Maryland Hunt Cup when the 2020 race was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, died of colic at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center veterinary hospital April 15. The Pennsylvania-bred was 10 years old.

"It's the end of an era," said trainer Joe Davies. "We were so lucky so many times he rose up from the ashes or what seemed like the ashes that we can't be anything but grateful."

Bred by Marylander Charles McGill and owned by Marylanders Skip and Vicki Crawford, Senior Senator won seven National Steeplechase Association timber races (including the Grand National and Hunt Cup three times each) and earned $280,500. His race record includes six point-to-point wins, and a winless, seven-start flat career. The son of Domestic Dispute and the Awesome Again mare Queen Kennelot earned $289,756.

Davies and his wife Blythe, who was attracted by the horse's stride while watching races on her computer, claimed Senior Senator for $7,500 at Penn National in 2013. They were hoping for a timber horse. They got a star, and a project. With trainer Flint Stites, Senior Senator gained a reputation as a rogue – bucking off jockeys in the post parade before races and making life difficult for exercise riders in the morning.

The bay gelding stayed true to himself and needed constant management, but gradually took to farm life and the stiff tests of Maryland timber racing. Senior Senator made his timber debut at New York's Genesee Valley meet in 2014, and finished second. He won the next month at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup and in 2015 placed in the My Lady's Manor and Grand National timber stakes to signal a potential for big things.

Ridden throughout by Eric Poretz, Senior Senator arrived for real in 2016. He won on the Grand National card, but was disqualified for interference while racing erratically. A week later, he upset the more experienced Guts For Garters (Ire) in the Hunt Cup. Senior Senator won the Grand National in 2017, but fell in the Hunt Cup. Surgery fixed a broken bone in his neck, and he returned to win the Grand National and Hunt Cup each twice more – in 2018 and 2019. They would be his final starts. Joe Davies called the 2016 Hunt Cup a favorite memory for its improbability, but just as quickly mentioned the 2018 Hunt Cup for the same reason. The trainer and his family will miss more than a racehorse, however.

"Just the everyday," he said about what he'll miss. "He was the first horse we saw every day and every night. We could see him from our bedroom, the kitchen. There wasn't a day for seven years where we didn't see him other than a couple nights he went to New Bolton. We've been through a lot with him."

With this year's Maryland timber meets and early point-to-points canceled, Senior Senator was going to miss 2020 but plans called for a 2021 campaign and an attempt at an unprecedented fourth Hunt Cup. Nine horses have won the race, first run in 1894, three times.

– Joe Clancy

Moving Target

Fasig-Tipton, horsemen try to adjust to fluid situation

By Sean Clancy

Kip Elser knew at the yearling sale in Karaka, New Zealand, in late January when a Chinese friend wasn't going back to China, if she could help it. Cary Frommer knew at the OBS Sale in mid-March when South Korean friends warned her about the importance of testing and retesting. Boyd Browning knew when moving 200 horses and all the people to go with them for the Florida 2-year-old sale, scheduled for April 1, had become an impossibility.

At various rates, Elser, Frommer and Browning, three cogs in the Mid-Atlantic 2-year-old sales market, knew that the coronavirus was going to be a disturbance, an interruption, perhaps, a bump in the road. By mid-April, that bump had become a roadblock as the pandemic shook the world and shut down the country, decimating the economy, rocketing the unemploy-

BARRY BORNSTEIN

ment rate, crushing the stock market and freezing Thoroughbred racing and sales.

"What was shocking was the rapid transformation from, 'Yeah, maybe I should be a little concerned' to a national crisis erupting in a matter of days," said Browning, president and CEO of Fasig-Tipton Sales Company. "Some days, you feel like you're doing pretty good and then other days you feel like you're going to scream and go insane. My list of accomplishments since this hit is 0 for 36 days, you feel like you can't get anything done."

Sales and races were postponed at best, canceled at worst. Racing was shuttered, except for a couple of outliers, including Gulfstream Park, Oaklawn Park and Tampa Bay Downs, which ran with only essential people present. In all Mid-Atlantic states, racing screeched to a halt and was still on hold through the middle of April. Fasig-Tipton canceled its Gulfstream Sale, "the first domino to fall" and scrapped its 2-year-old sale at Santa Anita June 3. The multi-faceted sales company began to play Jenga with the Midlantic 2-year-old sale at the Maryland State Fairgrounds

Consignors like the South Carolina-based Kip Elser were dealing with a new landscape in the 2-year-old market.

in Timonium. With the Preakness Stakes postponed, Fasig-Tipton originally adjusted its flagship Mid-Atlantic sale from May 18-19 to May 26-27 and added a second 2-year-old sale at Timonium June 22-23. As the pandemic evolved, Fasig-Tipton continued to follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and changed that plan, rescheduling the May 2-year-old sale to June 29-30.

Originally, that schedule seemed feasible, safe, but that has changed as the breadth of the coronavirus has become more apparent. The number of cases worldwide had grown to two million with at least 126,000 deaths. In the United States, the numbers passed 600,000 cases and more than 26,000 deaths. And those numbers will have increased before you finish this article, this sentence. Browning was hopeful that the postponement of the May sale would allow the social distancing restrictions to flatten the curve of the virus and the world could get back to normal. He was also realistic that this might not happen.

"Most people try to make logical decisions in life and not emotional decisions, but the information and circumstances are changing so rapidly that what you said or thought on Saturday is no longer applicable the next day," Browning said. "Hopefully it will be able to take place, that's our intention right now, we'll see, there will be some likely modifications slash restrictions, in place. It will look and feel a little different."

To that end, Fasig-Tipton announced April 16 the addition of online bidding on all future live auctions. The platform will be available at Timonium in June.

"The addition of online bidding to our live auctions is a service we are pleased to offer," said Browning via press release. "At no other time has this service been more crucial or needed. As we all work to conduct business in the current COVID-19 environment of adjusted social norms, online bidding ensures the best possible marketplace for our buyers and sellers in 2020. Looking beyond 2020, we envision this service being an integral component of all future auctions."

The company will also further expand its long-established phone bidding program for the remainder of 2020. The service allows prospective buyers—who are not on site at an auction—to bid on horses through a member of Fasig-Tipton's staff.

In addition, Fasig-Tipton planned the launch of a timed, online only auction platform at a future date, when appropriate. The platform will complement the company's live auction lineup, offering buyers and sellers additional transaction opportunities that fall outside of the traditional live auction calendar.

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Consignor Cary Frommer, of Aiken, S.C., looked forward to finally getting a chance to send horses to the sales ring this spring. Right: Frommer's home base at the Aiken Training Track.

"In the world that we live in, companies need to be flexible and willing to adapt," continued Browning. "Fasig-Tipton will always seek to be innovative and ready to adjust our sales models to best serve the marketplace."

The moves reinforced the message Browning delivered in a late-March video message Fasig-Tipton sent to customers by email and posted on its website. There, Browning said the company was with buyers and sellers "every step of the way." Posted on YouTube, transmitted via email and available on the company website, the video lasted 2 minutes, 12 seconds and had been seen more than 2,500 times by mid-April.

Browning expects a modest increase in the number of horses in the Midlantic catalogue (there were 600 last year), offering an option for horses derailed by the cancellation of the Florida sale and also horses who became available when Keeneland canceled its April 2-year-old sale.

The Timonium facility is limited in how many horses it can accommodate, especially for a 2-year-old sale where horses must be able to train.

"First and foremost, you have to think about the health and welfare of the people involved and also the health and welfare of the animals involved," Browning said. "What's made this even trickier is that the primary type of product being sold right now is 2-year-olds in training. You have to have an under-tack show, you've got to able to let people see these horses in person or on video on the racetrack. We have to have under-tack shows to effectively market the majority of 2-year-olds. The men and women selling them have a program designed to allow them to perform at a very high level on a pre-determined date, that's been one of the challenges for the consignors, the performance time has kept moving."

Fasig-Tipton has needed to keep moving the performance to offset the threat of coronavirus which has strengthened and lengthened.

All the while, the sales company has to provide for the natural sequence of Thoroughbred sales on the calendar. Two-year-olds need to sell before yearlings, and yes, that calendar is getting more and more condensed.

Fasig-Tipton scheduled its yearling sale in Kentucky for July 13-14 and its premier sale, The Saratoga Sale, comes quickly after that Aug. 10-11. If you're keeping score, that's three sales in 43 days, knowing the first one might need to be postponed or, worse, abandoned. What happens then? Well, that's on everybody's mind but not necessarily on everybody's lips.

BARRY BORNSTEIN

TOD MARKS

Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning said the sales company—which moved its Midlantic 2-year-old sale to late June—was doing all it could to help buyers and sellers in a marketplace rocked by the coronavirus pandemic.

"You look at every possibility, or you think you've looked at every possibility, and then someone suggests something you would have a thought was outlandish three months ago and you say, 'Maybe.' We've got to get the money back in the market and we have to get racing to resume. I do believe we'll get racing back," Browning said. "Given the opportunity, we can certainly institute a lot of the protocols and procedures that we've seen successful at the racetrack. We're monitoring it daily and we'll make whatever adjustments and changes to allow the conduct of activities that will enable us to conduct horse sales."

As for the consignors, they'll be ready.

With 10 weeks still to go, Elser's Kirkwood Stables had 22 horses targeted for the rescheduled Midlantic sale. Some of those were destined for Florida, some were penciled in for Keeneland and others were always going to Timonium. Now they converge onto the same wait-and-see-and-hope program. Along with them at Elser's base at Springdale Training Center in Camden, S.C., older horses who would normally be shipping to trainers at racetracks stay put.

In a micro sense, that's good for Elser, Frommer and others as they continue to collect day rates, but bad on a macro level because it means racing is not taking place and potential buyers have become hamstrung owners of horses without earning potential.

"We've got quite a bit of unsold inventory, but we're lucky to have jobs and we're lucky to have a great facility. I wake up thankful for where we are, we're being careful, we're ticking over, taking care of the animals and doing the best we can," Elser said. "As far as the economics of it all, that's up in the air. I'm not sure how it's going to turn out, right now, we're trying to keep horses and people healthy and keep working."

Elser travels around the world and has taken a page from the playbooks of his friends in Australia and New Zealand, giving horses time off while keeping them in training.

"They 'spell' horses all the time, so I'm feeling my way through spelling horses a little bit without stopping with them completely," Elser said. "They're still going, time in the paddock, time walking, going back and forth. The main thing is they were starting to get fit and we're trying to keep them amused."

About 85 miles southwest from Elser, Frommer walks the same balance with racehorses meant to be going to trainers and sales horses meant to be going through the ring. Both are on hold while Frommer tries to keep everything on target, a moving target.

"We're just in a state of suspended animation. We're trying to keep some conditioning so when we see any light at the end of the tunnel, we can pick up and go. I'm just trying to keep some bottom on them," Frommer said. "Some of my horses were in the Miami sale, they had done their last work to ship and then it was canceled. It's like bringing sticks of dynamite home, trying to let them down a little, you've headed them for the process and the process goes away. But it's what everybody is dealing with in everybody's own way."

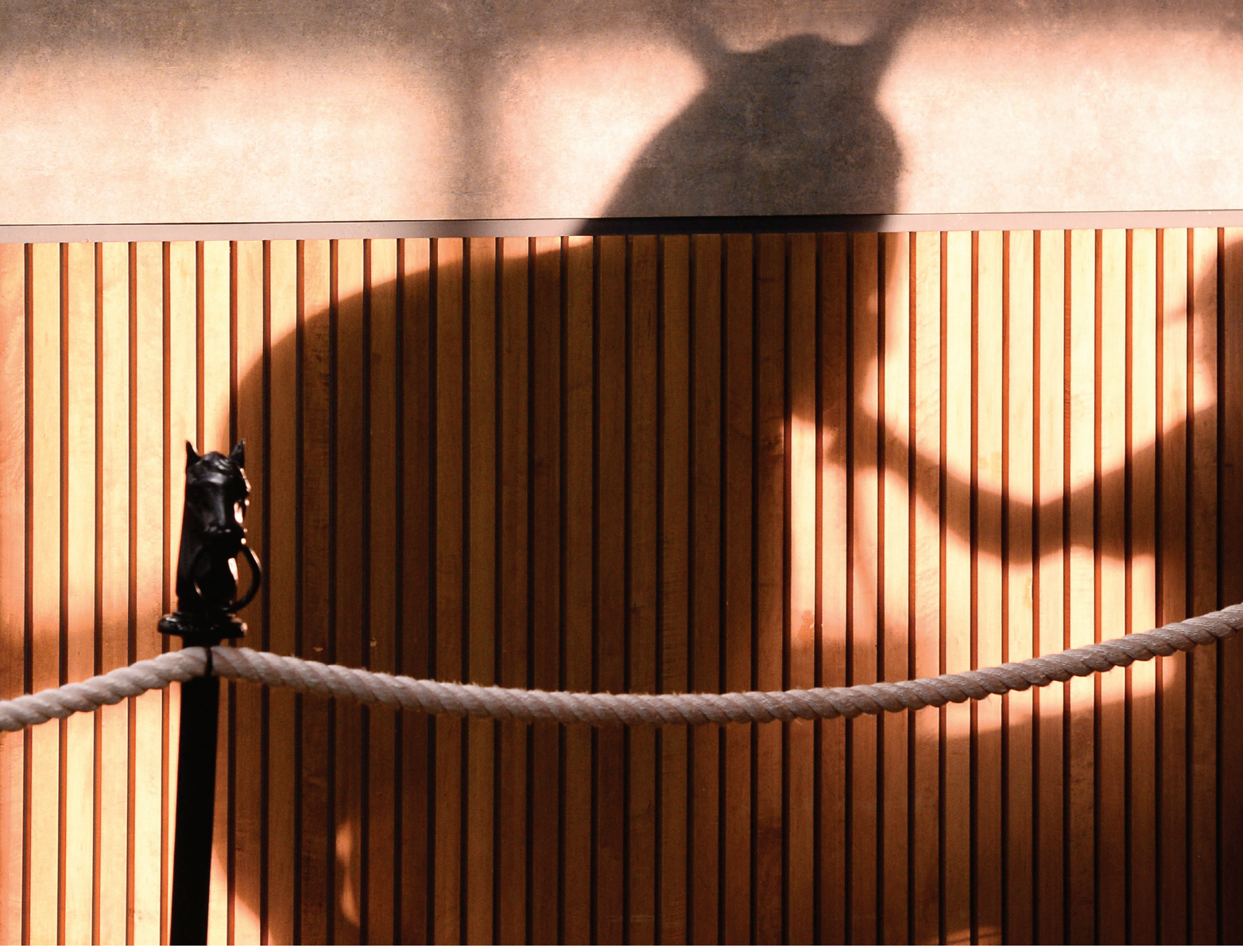
Frommer has 27 horses scheduled for Timonium. That's more than usual for her. Like everybody, the playbook for a May sale looks different than the playbook for a late June sale. An eighth of a mile in May is acceptable, it won't be in June. Horses should be going farther. Horses should be closer to the races, if and when the races resume.

"I really don't like working quarters because as fast as we have to work them and then they have to gallop out so huge, you call yourself working an eighth of a mile but you're galloping out three eighths in :33," Frommer said. "I realize I have to work quarters because that's what people expect at that time of year but then you're galloping out a half in :45 or :44. I'm really not a fan of that, but the gallop outs have become more important than the breezes so I guess I'm going to have to do it."

Elser toys with his playbook as well, factoring in the shorter distance of Timonium's 5-furlong track.

"Theoretically they should be doing more and be closer to the races. I'm debating that myself, because of the limitations to the Timonium configuration," Elser said. "It's always been a caring surface for the horses, but I'm not sure I can breeze a bunch of these three-eighths, I'm trying to work that out in my mind."

Further complicating Elser's process is his group of "Gallop Only" 2-year-olds pointed for the Gulfstream sale. A recent approach, these horses are not pressured into timed workouts, buyers evaluate them on strong gallops. That works on April 1, but won't fly two months later.



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

"That's another internal question," Elser said. "It's too late in the year to just gallop. I'm debating with myself. Should we go a steady three-eighths with that group? But that makes it hard for the buyers."

In the meantime, as the Jenga game plays out, Elser and Frommer stepped up photography and video presentations of their horses, and explored the private market. Their clients weren't panicking.

"I've talked to everybody who has a horse or a piece of a horse here, it's a wonderful group of people," said Elser, who sold future Grade 1 winner Mucho Gusto for $625,000 at Timonium in 2018. "Each one said, 'Hang in there, do the best you can. Take care of our horses and it'll all work out in the end.'"

Frommer, perennially among the top consignors at Timonium (whose graduates include graded stakes winners Trappe Shot and Dance to Bristol), found the same sense of security and confidence.

"We've got quite a bit of unsold inventory, but we're lucky to have jobs and we're lucky to have a great facility. I wake up thankful for where we are, we're being careful, we're ticking over, taking care of the animals and doing the best we can."

– Consignor Kip Elser, of Kirkwood Stables

"I'll be able to weather the storm," Frommer said. "I haven't had to lay anybody off, I've got top-notch owners. I had an owner who could have taken his horses to the farm and turned them out, but he was more worried about my employees. We've got nice horses and nice horses always sell."

When, where, how and for how much is another story.

"You just wait," Frommer said. "Every plan has now fallen off the edge of the earth."

"None of us alive have ever been through anything like this," Browning said. "The devastation that's being done to people is unfathomable."

"If it's happened before in my lifetime," Elser said, "I've blocked it out."

A Preakness before the Derby? Or after the Belmont? Blasphemy.

Everyone knows the order of the Triple Crown classics, and that the races are five weeks apart. But with 150 years of history, it's only been over the last 50 that the formula has been in place.

The exact order of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes has remained the same since 1932. It wasn't until 1969 that the spacing we know today was implemented. And who knows what we'll end up with in 2020.

The early races had spots on the calendar, but the dates often shifted.

The Belmont Stakes, first run in 1867 so the oldest, has been contested in June for most of its history. The Preakness, which made its debut in 1873, is the highlight of a Pimlico spring meet in May. The first Kentucky Derby was run May 17, 1875.

Winning any of the three races has always been celebrated. To win all three is rare—twice in history it was impossible to do. On May 12, 1917, the first time the Maryland Jockey Club presented the

Order, Order

Preakness, Triple Crown histories have followed meandering paths

By Cindy Deubler

Woodlawn Vase to the winner, legendary Kentuckian E.R. Bradley's Kalitan won the Preakness. Just minutes later *Omar Khayyam rolled home to take the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs. Neither contested that year's Belmont. Coincidentally, another Bradley runner, Bimelech, was the first to be draped with a blanket of black-eyed Susans after a Preakness win in 1940.

The Derby and Preakness again occurred on the same day Saturday, May 13, 1922. Pillory won in Baltimore; Morvich in Louisville. Pillory went on to add the Belmont Stakes four weeks later.

Pillory was a legitimate contender to sweep the three races but scheduling precluded it–the same could be said for the 1877 Preakness winner, Cloverbrook. The first Maryland-bred classic winner, E.A. Clabaugh's homebred didn't contest the Derby, which had been run two days earlier. He and the Derby winner, Baden Baden, met in that year's Belmont, which Cloverbrook won easily, with Baden Baden finishing third. Cloverbrook was the first horse to win two legs of what would become the Triple Crown.

The term Triple Crown began to appear in the columns of racing journalists in the 1920s, and became more widely used when writers glorified Gallant Fox's accomplishment in 1930. Gallant Fox won the Preakness on Friday, May 9–eight days before the Kentucky Derby (May 17). It was one of 11 times the Preakness was run before the Derby–the last was in 1931, when Mate defeated favorite Twenty Grand at Pimlico, and seven days later Twenty Grand won the Derby while Mate finished third.

During a seven-year stretch–from Nellie Morse's victory in 1924 through 1930–the Preakness was run on a Monday or a Friday. It has been run on every day of the week save Sunday–and 42 times on a day other than a Saturday. The first time the Derby was run on a Saturday was in 1902.

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Pillory won the Preakness the same day Morvich won the Kentucky Derby in 1922.

Weekday runnings often shortened the time between the Derby and Preakness in the early decades. In 1918, A.K. Macomber's *War Cloud went off as the favorite in the Derby May 11 and finished fourth behind Exterminator; four days later, he was one of the favorites on the Wednesday afternoon card at Pimlico in the first division of the Preakness, and won.

The next year, Sir Barton proved four days was not a problem at all. The J.K.L. Ross runner won the Derby on Saturday by 5 lengths; the Preakness that Wednesday by 4. His win in the Belmont, by 5 lengths, came nearly four weeks later on a Tuesday–sandwiched in between the Preakness and Belmont was a win in the Withers.

The Derby and Preakness would never be run closer than seven days apart after 1927. Back-to-back weekends in Kentucky and Maryland proved the norm for the nation's top 3-year-olds for most of the next quarter century, including the Triple Crowns years of Omaha, War Admiral, Whirlaway, Count Fleet and Assault (Citation had two weeks between the races).

Then there was 1945–when all three classics were held over a three-week span in June.

Racing was shuttered by the government–namely by Justice James F. Byrnes–at the beginning of 1945 due to World War II. Racing writer Joe Palmer noted that the

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The Woodlawn Vase was presented for the first time to E.R. Bradley for his Kalitan's 1917 Preakness, run the same day as the Derby. Coincidentally, Bradley's Bimelech was draped with the very first blanket of black-eyed Susan's for his 1940 Preakness win.

KEENELAND LIBRARY COOK COLLECTION

Gallant Fox won the 1930 Preakness eight days before he won the Derby.

action "was an arbitrary and capricious exercise of power which no one was very sure that [Byrnes] possessed legally."

Uncertainty of the spring racing season prompted racing officials to be creative in their scheduling. Don Reed provided an account in the *Maryland Horse* of the likelihood of the tracks reopening:

"Racing's hopes for an early return to action were first buoyed and then sunk by a series of events in the middle of April."

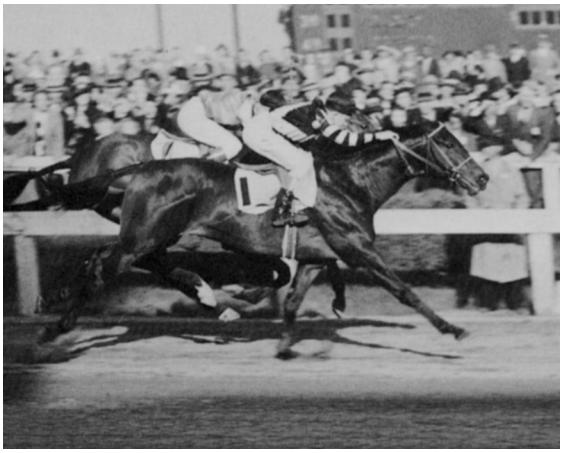
A reopening was then considered likely for mid-May. But at that point, President Harry Truman said in a press conference that the ban on racing would stay in place.

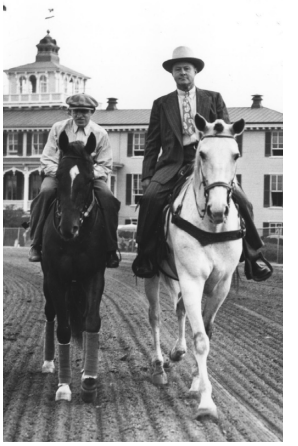
Reed reported that, "One of the ideas cropping up during all the discussion of possible plans for racing, promises to create something of a stir . . . Harry Parr, Pimlico president, is anxious to run the Preakness one week after the Kentucky Derby, regardless of the date of the Kentucky classic. It is possible, of course, that any reopening may come too late for Pimlico to stage a meeting without interfering with other tracks regularly scheduled at the time.

"Should this prove the case, Parr would stage a one-day program at the plant of the Maryland Jockey Club on the Saturday following the Derby. His tentative plans include running not only the Preakness, but the Dixie and the Pimlico Oaks, with possibly two or three lesser spring stakes also adorning this single card. Just what the reaction will be to such a pretentious array of specials is hard to predict, but at least the day would have to go down as one of the highlights of Maryland's turf history."

In a generous display of solidarity, management at Delaware Park and Charles

Sir Barton won the 1919 Derby and four days later added the Preakness.





Five Triple Crown winners won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness on consecutive Saturdays (clockwise from top left): War Admiral–1937, Count Fleet–1943, Whirlaway–1941, Omaha–1935 and Assault–1946.

Town agreed to halt their respective meetings that day so as not to conflict with the Preakness program.

The racing ban was lifted May 9 by Byrnes' successor, Fred M. Vinson, on V-E Day, when victory in the war was declared in Europe.

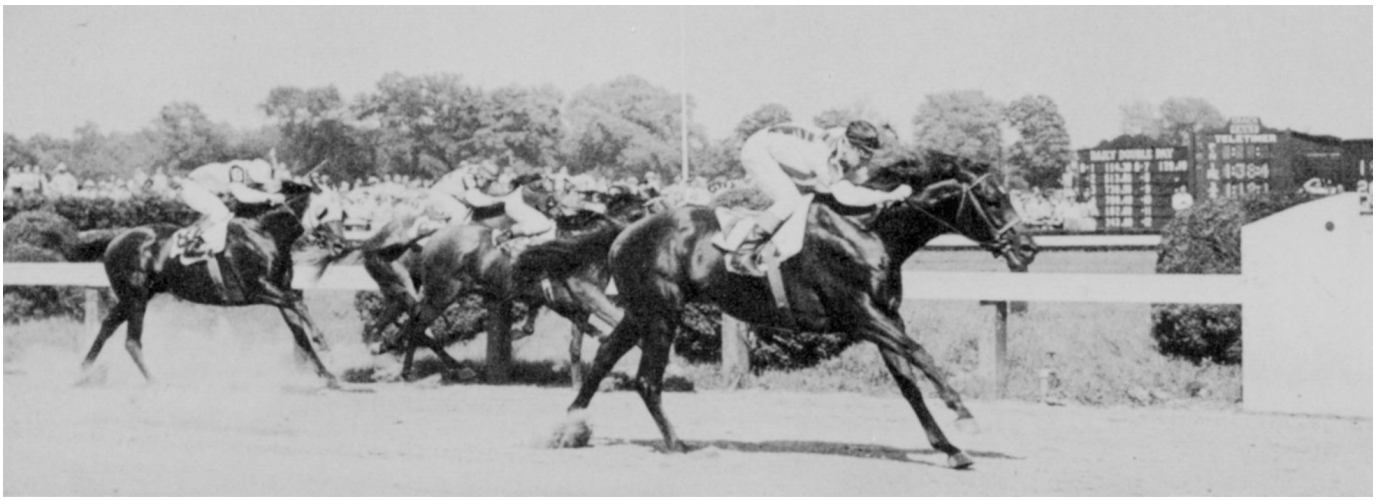
The Derby ran June 9–the latest in the history of the race until this year's announced Sept. 5 date. Hoop Jr. won. In the Preakness June 16, Polynesian defeated Hoop Jr. by 2½ lengths. The Derby winner exited the race with a bowed tendon. Pavot, fifth in the Preakness, won the Belmont June 23.

Of the 24 runners over the three weeks, seven competed in two of the races. Sea Swallow, owned by Charles Howard (of Seabiscuit fame), ran in all three–his best finish a fifth in the Belmont. He returned July 4 to win the Yankee Handicap at Suffolk Downs.

The June 16 date was the latest for a Preakness; the Belmont had once been run as late as November (in 1895). The latest the Belmont had been run in June was in 1945.

The Triple Crown didn't become official until 1950, when the Thoroughbred Racing Association introduced the Triple Crown trophy, a triangular Cartier-designed and crafted bowl. John Clark, TRA director at the time, noted that until there was "some suitable and permanent trophy be awarded winners of America's Triple" the accomplishment was "something of a mythical honor."

Racing has its traditions and history–few as steeped as the Triple Crown–but 2020 isn't the first time the sport rolled with the changes and carried on in style. And it won't be the last. ✹



Three classics in three weeks in 1945: the Preakness won by Polynesian June 16 has been the latest running of the middle jewel.

Make it two

Lebda adds Private Terms score to budding 3-year-old campaign

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM MCCUE

Like other regional tracks, Maryland's Laurel Park gave it a go during the coronavirus pandemic, racing without spectators in early March and putting together a lineup of four stakes March 14 before racing was canceled for the foreseeable future.

The Saturday stakes lineup included a second impressive win by 3-year-old Lebda in the $100,000 Private Terms Stakes. Trained for Euro Stable by Claudio Gonzalez, the dark bay colt cruised up to pacesetter Took Charge approaching the stretch and rolled past to a 4¼-length win—his second consecutive stakes after taking the Miracle Wood Feb. 15.

Sent off as the even-money favorite with Alex Cintron aboard, Lebda completed the 1 1/16 miles in 1:44.87 over a fast main track in his second try around two turns. In the first, he was third behind Dennis' Moment in the Iroquois-G3 last fall at Churchill Downs.

"We're yet to find out [how good he is], but today he answered a big question. The question was whether he could get two turns," Gonzalez's assistant trainer Troy Singh said. "He ran a pretty good race in Kentucky and he ran with Dennis' Moment over there. Today was a big question and Alex gave him a perfect ride. He got him to settle and he got him home."

Took Charge cleared the field into the first turn from his far outside post and opened up a 5-length lead after a quarter-mile in :23.72, and was still 4 lengths in front following a half in :48.12. Lebda, who used frontrunning tactics in the Miracle Wood before hanging on to win by less than a length, settled in second, pressed to his outside by Big City Bob, with My Friends Beer leading the third flight farther back.

Lebda ranged up leaving the backstretch, drew to even terms on the bend and eased past at the top of the stretch, steadily pulling away through the lane.

"We knew the outside horse had speed and we didn't really have to be on the lead," said Cintron. "Last time he was on the lead going :22 and :45, but he was doing it easy. He's the kind of horse that can be off the pace, too. I really love this horse."

A $1,000 yearling purchase at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic by Joe Besecker in 2018, Lebda sold for $100,000 as part of the owner's dispersal in December last year. Bred in Kentucky by Calumet Farm, the son of Raison d'Etat pushed his career earnings to $214,525 in his eighth start, $120,000 earned this year.

FUELED BY The Mill

■ Gonzalez won the 3-year-old filly stakes, the $100,000 Beyond The Wire, on the card as well. Magic Stable's Princess Cadey, second to Naughty Thoughts in the Wide Country four weeks earlier, posted a dominant 7-length win, her first in a stakes and third in five starts since being claimed for $16,000 Dec. 8.

Fourth choice in the betting at 5-1, Princess Cadey raced in mid-pack along the rail under Angel Cruz while Miss Tap Dance went a quarter-mile in :24.48 and a half in :47.46 pressed by 8-5 favorite Naughty Thoughts to her outside.

Princess Cadey gained ground inside and moved into a contending position approaching the stretch then opened up and drew off once straightened for home. Naughty Thoughts finished second, with stakes winner Bella Aurora third.

Cruz replaced Cintron on Princess Cadey after Cintron opted to ride stablemate Ankle Monitor. The two horses had their last works together March 6 at Laurel.

"The last work I worked her with Alex Cintron in company and she worked really good and I liked her for this race," Cruz said. "She felt really good for the work and coming into this race."

■ Senior Investment, third in the 2017 Preakness Stakes-G1, slowed things down early before powering through the stretch for a front-running 5-length upset in the $100,000 Harrison E. Johnson Memorial.

March stakes results for Laurel Park

3/14 Beyond The Wire ($100K). 1 mi. 3YO F.

Winner: **PRINCESS CADEY** (b.f., Dialed In—Dyrce, by Sandpit-Brz). B-Martin Keogh and Tanya Johnson (Ky.). O-Magic Stable. T-Claudio A. Gonzalez. J-Angel Cruz. Time: 1:38.24. Margin: 7. 2nd: **Naughty Thoughts**. 3rd: **Bella Aurora**.

3/14 Harrison E. Johnson Memorial ($100K). 1⅛ mi. 4&up.

Winner: **SENIOR INVESTMENT** (ch.h., 6, Discreetly Mine—Plaid, by Deputy Commander). B-Dixiana Farms (Ky.). O-Richard Malouf. T-Scott A. Lake. J-Emmanuel Esquivel. Time: 1:50.96. Margin: 5. 2nd: **Name Changer**. 3rd: **Alwaysmining**.

3/14 Nellie Morse ($100K). 1 mi. 4&up, F&M.

Winner: **ARRIFANA** (b.f., 4, Curlin—Vaulcluse, by A.P. Indy). B-Gunpowder Farms (Ky.). O-Gainesway Stable (Antony Beck), LNJ Foxwoods and Millennium Farms. T-Kelly Rubley. J-Julian Pimentel. Time: 1:35.95. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Horologist**. 3rd: **Needs Supervision**.

3/14 Private Terms ($100K). abt. 1 1/16 mi. 3YO.

Winner: **LEBDA** (dk.b./br.c., Raison d'Etat—Lenders Way, by Hook and Ladder). B-Calumet Farm (Ky.). O-Euro Stable. T-Claudio A. Gonzalez. J-Alex Cintron. Time: 1:44.87. Margin: 4¼. 2nd: **My Friends Beer**. 3rd: **Mine Not Mine**.

SHADWELL STALLIONS 2020

ALBERTUS MAXIMUS

by **ALBERT THE GREAT** *$2,500 LF*

Over $25,000 Avg. Earnings/Starter

Sire of **SEVEN $100,000+ Earners**

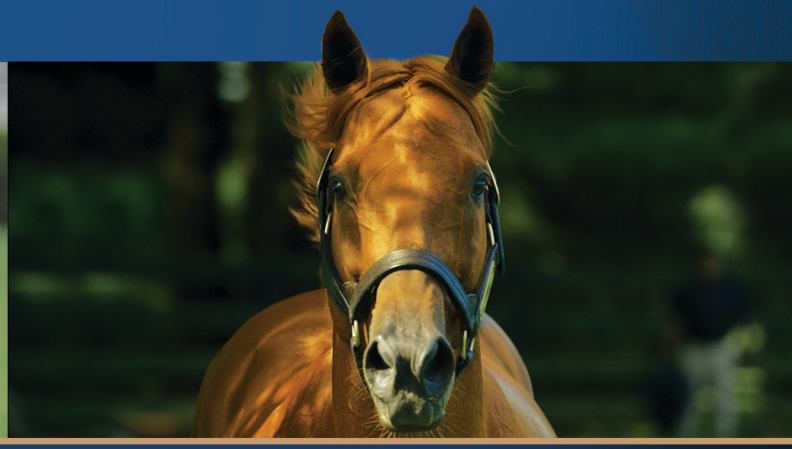
MOHAYMEN

by **TAPIT** *$7,500 LF*

1st Crop Weanlings up to **$145,000**

4X Graded SW at 2 & 3

Brilliant Son of Tapit from a **Remarkable Young Family**



QURBAAN

by **SPEIGHTSTOWN** *$5,000 LF*

Won/Placed in 9 Graded Stakes – 3 G1

Back-to-Back Winner of
Saratoga's Bernard Baruch H.-**G2**

TAMARKUZ

by **SPEIGHTSTOWN** *$10,000 LF*

Top Five 1st Crop Sire, KeeSept Avg. $112,875

1st BC Dirt Mile-G1, etc.

1st 2YOs race this year

SHADWELL FARM

Kent Barnes, Stallion Manager
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Two starts, two stakes wins to start the year for Lebda. The winner of the Private Terms has earned $130,000 since selling for $100,000 last December.

Curlin's daughter Arrifana battled Horologist (inside) to the wire in the Nellie Morse to record her first stakes win and fifth win in six starts.

Since breaking her maiden for a $25,000 tag in December, Princess Cadey has two wins in four starts, topped by a dominating score in the Beyond The Wire.

Third-place finisher in the 2017 Preakness, Senior Investment got his first stakes win in nearly three years in the Harrison E. Johnson Memorial.

Ridden by Emmanuel Esquivel for trainer Scott Lake, who claimed the 6-year-old son of Discreetly Mine for $50,000 last September at Delaware Park, Senior Investment covered the distance in 1:50.96. Grade 3 winner Name Changer, racing for the first time since late November, rallied for a narrow second over favorite Alwaysmining, who had his two-race win streak snapped.

It was the third straight victory for Senior Investment, a stretch that includes allowance scores Jan. 31 at Laurel and Feb. 18 at Parx. It's his second stakes win, his other coming in the 2017 Lexington-G3, one start prior to his Preakness run for trainer Ken McPeek.

■ Gainesway Stable, LNJ Foxwoods and Millennium Farms' Arrifana, making her first start since late November, became a stakes winner with a nose victory over Horologist in the $100,000 Nellie Morse.

Arrifana, a daughter of Curlin favored at 3-5 over six fellow 4-year-old fillies, ran a mile in 1:35.95 to win for the fifth time in six starts, including a perfect 4-0 record at Laurel. The lone loss came when second in the Comely-G3 Nov. 29 at Aqueduct in her 2019 finale.

"She's obviously run very well here and we thought this was a great opportunity for her to break back into the new year. Horologist was a fighter, though," trainer Kelly Rubley said. "She was making me sweat a little. It's her first start back after a little break so you're always a little concerned if you're ready, and she certainly showed up for us today."

NOTES: Laurel-based Shotski shipped to Dubai for the $2.5-million UAE Derby-G2, but returned without running when the entire Dubai World Cup card was canceled March 28 due to the coronavirus. . . Laurel ran three cards without spectators and with only essential racing personnel March 13-15, but closed entirely when Gov. Larry Hogan issued further restrictions on public gatherings. . . Gonzalez led the trainers' standings with 40 wins to 18 for Kieron Magee and 16 for Mike Trombetta. Owners Magic Stable and Michael Scheffres were tied with eight wins apiece, followed by Robert Bone with seven. Magic led the earnings table. Trevor McCarthy topped the jockeys with 38 wins, followed by Cintron (26) and Charlie Marquez (24). ✹

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Strong Union

DeMasi filly with Delaware Park ties takes debut; Stolen Love wins 15th

BY LINDA DOUGHERTY

At last year's Ocala Breeders' March sale of 2-year-olds, trainer Kate DeMasi took home a dark bay filly by Union Rags from the consignment of Ocala Stud for $18,000.

Named Union Rally, the filly now races for the partnership of DeMasi's Pewter Stable and Montour Stable, and won her career debut March 7 in a maiden special weight at 6 furlongs.

Sent off as the favorite, Union Rally broke slowly for Andrew Wolfsont, but secured a striking position behind Majestic Greeley. The latter arrived at the head of the stretch with a length lead, but got weary in mid-stretch and Union Rally drove past with a flourish to win by 2 lengths despite lugging in late. Deco Strong was second with Majestic Greeley third.

"She's very professional," said DeMasi "Like many horses, we've had to do things on her timeline, but she's been super about everything."

Union Rally is out of the Elusive Quality mare Vicarious Won, who placed in the Dashing Beauty and Sweet and Sassy Stakes at Delaware Park in 2013, and earned $138,339. There is another connection to Delaware Park in Union Rally's pedigree, as her third dam, With a Wink, captured the Delaware Handicap-G2 in 1994 for trainer D. Wayne Lukas and jockey Richard Migliore.

■ In the 93rd start of his long career, Jagger Inc.'s Stolen Love, a 10-year-old Maryland-bred son of Not For Love, showed his younger rivals how it's done when he battled throughout 1 1/16 miles and got his 15th lifetime victory March 13.

The chestnut gelding broke a bit slowly, but then ranged up on the inside to sit just off the early leaders. Around the far turn, Ruben Silvera guided him two wide and he drove to the lead, engaged 6-year-old Big City Blues down the stretch and drew away to a length win as the betting favorite. The first-place prize increased his earnings to $516,990.

Stolen Love, bred by Classic Thoroughbred XII, was trained by his owner Jamie Ness. Ness claimed the gelding for $12,500 at Delaware Park last summer and has won twice with him.

A $5,000 purchase at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2011 yearling sale, Stolen Love's nine-season career began June 27, 2012, when he debuted at Charles Town for trainer Hubert Gaffney. As is the case with durable, money-making campaigners, the gelding has changed hands many times since then.

The highlight of his long career thus far was a victory in the Maryland Million Starter Handicap at Laurel Park in October 2015. At that time, he was trained by Claudio Gonzalez for Two Rivers Racing Stable and MCA Racing Stable. The following year, he was third in the same race, in which he just missed in a 14-horse field. In 2018, he was third in the Maryland Million Sprint Handicap behind Lewisfield for owner/trainer Ted Maher.

■ It was a long time between drinks, but Short Straw Stable and Tom Cannell's Attentively finally found the winner's circle again March 11 after more than a year.

The 6-year-old Pennsylvania-bred mare roared from off the pace to post a 21-1 upset, nailing 1-5 favorite Roses for Ruby in the final strides, earning a $18,960 payday in the state-bred allowance at 1 mile and 70 yards. Attentively's last win came more than a year earlier, Jan. 26, 2019. She'd been busy since—making 16 starts and finishing second or third nine times for trainer Flint Stites.

Stites also bred Attentively, and stood her sire Reflect Times (Jpn) for many years at his Whirlwind Stables in Grantville, not far from Penn National.

Also for Stites, Prima Ventures' Broad Street Bully recorded his second consecutive allowance win from three 2020 starts when he humbled his opponents in a conditional allowance test March 6. Wolfsont guided the Pennsylvania-bred son of El Padrino through horses and he burst clear down the stretch, winning by nearly 2 lengths. It was the gelding's third win from four lifetime starts.

■ The third time proved the charm for Arrowwood Farm's Lunar Prize, who benefited from two prior placings to break her maiden March 7 in a game gate-to-wire effort in swift time.

The 3-year-old Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Orb trained by Rodrigo Madrigal Sr. engaged in a slugfest right out of the gate with Yes Sir Colonel and first-time starter Jebologist. The trio raced together through an opening quarter of :21.64 until the half-mile pole, when Yes Sir Colonel began to drop back when the teletimer flashed :44.72 and Lunar Prize continued to spar with Jebologist. Eventually, Lunar Prize edged away down the stretch to win by three-quarters of a length in 1:09.82 for 6 furlongs.

Lunar Prize is out of Emerald Bracelet, a stakes-placed daughter of Pure Prize who also raced for Arrowwood owner Tom Coulter and Madrigal. Emerald Bracelet has a yearling colt by Twirling Candy named Nightatthemovies, and a 2-year-old colt by Munnings named Magnetic Charm. Her first foal, Keltoi, by Lookin At Lucky, is an allowance winner of nearly $100,000.

Before live racing was suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Coulter had won four races and more than $100,000 in earnings. He was Penn National's leading owner by purse earnings in 2019, winning 32 races and $879,919. Joe Besecker was the leading owner by wins, with 49.

■ Larry Rabold's Smart Two a T recorded his seventh victory when he stormed to the front and drew off in a 1 mile and 70 yards allowance for Pennsylvania-breds March 5.

It was the second win in 2020 from three starts for the 7-year-old son of Smarty Jones, who is trained by Demelza McMahon, and boosted his lifetime earnings over the $100,000 mark.

Seven victories on a resume are impressive considering the gelding took 14 starts to break his maiden. His debut came in January 2016 at Laurel Park, and his first win didn't come until September 2018 at Timonium (he missed the entire 2017 season).

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Ysabell T., his dam, is a daughter of Gators N Bears, who stood in Maryland. She is a winning half-sister to stakes-placed runners Fran's Buckaroo, an earner of $231,126, and Captain Alex ($105,383). As a broodmare, Ysabell T. has also produced Smart Royal T, a full-brother to Smart Two a T, also a seven-time winner who has earned $136,283.

■ As live racing came to a screeching halt the third week of March due to coronavirus concerns, longtime leading trainer Tim Kreiser was again atop the standings, with 22 wins from 93 starts. Four behind Kreiser was Brandon Kulp, while Kim Graci had 16 and Flint Stites 12.

One of Kreiser's main owners, Robert Derr, led the owner standings with eight wins from 20 starts, and $100,786 in earnings.

Edwin Gonzalez had a 23-win margin in the jockey standings over Tyler Conner, 46 to 23, with Inoel Beato collecting 18 for third. Gonzalez had a sky-high winning rate through the period with 31 percent, compared to Conner's 19. ✹

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Happy Tune

Whistling Birds opens 2020 season with back-to-back wins for Bran Jam

BY LINDA DOUGHERTY

In 2019, Bran Jam Stable and David Clark's Whistling Birds played the role of the best man five times, winning only once from nine starts, that being his maiden-breaker.

The $50,000 purchase out of the 2018 Ocala Breeders' April sale of 2-year-olds turned things around dramatically this season, winning twice from three starts, including back-to-back allowance tests in February and March.

The New York-bred son of Jimmy Creed squeezed out a neck victory Feb. 15 at Parx Racing, then came back to dominate a salty group of six rivals in a 1-mile race March 3 over a sealed track as the raindrops fell.

Mychel Sanchez positioned the 4-year-old just off the pace through the first half-mile, and then unleashed him after three-quarters. He surged to the lead and steadily increased his advantage to the wire, winning by 9 lengths over Dirt in Your Face. Among the vanquished were stakes winners Grasshoppin, who finished fifth, and Navy Commander, who brought up the rear.

Lou Linder Jr. has trained Whistling Birds since the beginning of his career. Purchased by Michael Mellen, who races as Bran Jam Stable, the chestnut colt finished fourth in his only start as a 2-year-old in late December 2018 at Aqueduct. Two placings in January followed at Parx, and then the colt returned to Aqueduct to break his maiden in late February. Although he consistently hit the board, he did not prevail again until this year.

"Last summer [2019] he was doing well, but started to tail off, it was like the bottom dropped out," said Linder. "He was listless and not eating. So he got some time off and when he started back training he was like his old self again. He had so many seconds last year and was just getting beat coming from off the pace. I thought a mile was his best distance but now I think going 1 1/16 miles and longer is better for him. He's matured and doesn't seem to wait on horses like he used to do."

Linder, a native of Philadelphia who's been training since 1977, is coming off two strong years. In 2018, he had a career-high 58 wins with $1.6 million in earnings, while last year he followed up with 53 wins and $1.4 million. Before Parx shut down racing in mid-March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Linder had 10 wins from 58 starts.

Whistling Birds hails from a strong female family, tracing to some talented Christiana Stables runners. His fifth dam, Rum Bottle Bay, produced multiple graded stakes winner and eventual sire Mo Bay, as well as multiple stakes winner Unity Hall, the dam of Grade 1 winner and sire Linkage.

Third dam, Temper the Wind (by Elocutionist), is a half-sister to stakes winner To the Lighthouse, while second dam Shuttered is a half-sister to multiple graded stakes winner Stem the Tide and four other stakes horses. Shuttered, by Wild Again, placed in multiple stakes, and produced Unshuttered, the dam of Whistling Birds, to the cover of Unbridled in 2001.

As for Whistling Birds, Linder was bullish on the resumption of the chestnut's 4-year-old career when Parx returned to racing.

"He was a big, good-looking horse even as a baby," said Linder. "And his being a New York-bred is a plus. He put together two monster races in a row before the shutdown, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year."

■ Uptowncharlybrown Stud's Dixie Serenade found the winner's circle for the first time since her rousing score in the Victory Ride Stakes-G3 at Belmont Park in July 2018 when she captured an allowance for Pennsylvania-breds March 7.

It was a game performance by Dixie Serenade, who was part of the early pace while racing between horses, then came outside on the turn. Cardi G dueled with Dixie Serenade to the wire, with Dixie Serenade gradually drawing clear to win by 2¼ lengths. Cardi G was disqualified to third after drifting out and bothering Sweet Turn, who was awarded the place spot.

The win was the fifth from 16 starts for the 5-year-old daughter of Uptowncharlybrown, and she's earned $337,950.

Owner/breeder Bob Hutt, president of Uptowncharlybrown Stud, said the bay mare was given time off after her 3-year-old season which ended with a sixth-place finish in the 2018 Cotillion-G1 behind champions Monomoy Girl, Midnight Bisou and Wonder Gadot, and was aiming for a summer comeback.

"She was just about ready for her return to the races last summer when she developed a serious eye infection," he said. "We sent her to Mid-Atlantic Equine Center for IV antibiotic therapy, and after about a month-long stay, in which we saved her eye, she lost all conditioning. We had to start all over after receiving medical clearance."

She returned in December with a second, finished second again in February and won in style in March.

Dixie Serenade is out of the Malibu Moon mare Moonlight Serenade, and has

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been trained throughout her career by Ed Coletti Jr. Moonlight Serenade's dam, the stakes-placed Polish Numbers mare Madame X Ski, is a full-sister to Grade 1 winner Tenski, who won the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup-G1 at Keeneland, as well as the Lake Placid and Lake George, both Grade 3, at Saratoga.

■ Colts Neck Stables' Nothing Better made his debut a winning one March 10 when he led all the way under Chris DeCarlo to take a maiden special weight at 6 furlongs.

The 3-year-old son of Munnings and the Duke of Marmalade (Ire) mare One True Love (Ire) shook off an early challenge from another first-time starter, Uncommon Valor, and then sprinted away in mid-stretch, drifting out a bit greenly but holding a nearly 2-length advantage at the wire.

Nothing Better is trained by Jorge Duarte Jr., who took over the conditioning of the Colts Neck horses upon the semi-retirement of longtime trainer Alan Goldberg.

In 2019, Duarte's first full year as Colts Neck trainer, he won 35 races and $1.7 million in earnings, and sent out Goldwood to win five stakes. In late March, Duarte announced he had contracted COVID-19 (the disease from the coronavirus) and was hospitalized, but after many days at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, N.J., he was on the road to recovery.

■ At the time live racing ceased, Mychel Sanchez was atop the jockey standings with 30 wins, seven more than Frankie Pennington and Angel Rodriguez, who were tied with 23 victories each. Last year's leading trainer Joe Taylor had 22 wins, two more than Jamie Ness. ✹

First-crop arrivals

MARTINA ROJAS

The first foal for Diamond B Farm stallion Eastwood was born Jan. 20 for breeders Martina Rojas and Glenn Brok. The bay Pennsylvania-bred filly is out of the Bear's Kid mare I'm Just Sayin. Eastwood, a graded stakes-placed son of Speightstown, entered stud at the Mohrsville, Pa., farm as the property of Town and Country Farm.

LAURA RUSSMAN

Among the first foals by O'Sullivan Farms' stallion Aldrin is their colt out of Prized Annuity born March 31 at the farm in Charles Town, W.Va. Prized Annuity (by Prized), one of 41 mares covered by Aldrin last season, was also bred by O'Sullivan Farms, is from the family of Russell Road, and is the dam of stakes-placed Lime Away. A son of Malibu Moon, Aldrin is a winning three-quarter brother to three-time leading sire Tapit. Other top sires found in the family are champions Rubiano and classic winner Summer Bird, Relaunch and Glitterman.

DANI HEIM

No Never No More's son, bred by Designated Hitters Racing out of the winning Munnings mare Sister Pat born March 12, is the first foal for his sire, who stands at Winding Creek Farm in Union Bridge, Md. No Never No More is a son of Scat Daddy out of Whosetheclownnow, by Tiznow, and is three-quarter in blood to top European sire No Nay Never.

STALLION RANKINGS

Mid-Atlantic region leading sires in 2020

Top 65 stallions who currently stand or concluded their careers in Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.
These statistics were supplied by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc. (TJCIS). Exact date is at the discretion of TJCIS. †Denotes freshman sire.
The following statistics, compiled on April 3, reflect 2020 earnings for all countries in the Northern and Southern Hemisphere reported to TJCIS.

		Foals	Runners	Starts	Winners	Races Won	Leading Earner	Earnings	%Wnrs./ Runners	Avg./ Runner	Stakes Winners
1.	Warrior's Reward (Pa)	571	98	257	27	34	Night Ops ($273,400)	$1,005,256	28	$10,258	2
2.	Jump Start (deceased)	1,448	89	194	26	31	Its a Journey ($55,910)	871,726	29	9,795	0
3.	Flashback (Pa)	205	53	118	14	17	British Idiom ($60,000)	529,170	26	9,984	0
4.	El Padrino (deceased)	178	42	95	13	14	Promised Storm ($55,880)	499,041	31	11,882	0
5.	Poseidon's Warrior (Pa)	210	65	154	16	20	Firenze Fire ($150,000)	458,960	25	7,061	1
6.	Fiber Sonde (WV)	278	49	111	15	17	Muad'dib ($50,925)	427,315	31	8,721	2
7.	Friesan Fire (Md)	232	46	115	12	15	Hell of Afire ($61,860)	415,273	26	9,028	0
8.	Great Notion (Md)	378	34	70	14	14	Anna's Bandit ($40,000)	390,692	41	11,491	0
9.	Windsor Castle (deceased)	387	51	139	14	19	Rush to the Castle ($37,300)	374,593	27	7,345	0
10.	Despite the Odds (WV)	79	33	88	13	16	Always Talking ($33,984)	322,113	39	9,761	0
11.	Boisterous (Pa)	110	31	88	9	11	Sea of Liberty ($63,360)	319,512	29	10,307	0
12.	Charitable Man (deceased)	190	50	132	13	15	Longstorylucy ($23,909)	317,356	26	6,347	0
13.	Bandbox (Md)	82	20	40	9	10	Artful Splatter ($78,822)	286,445	45	14,322	1
14.	Super Ninety Nine (Md)	83	25	59	7	8	Little Miss Raelyn ($52,472)	277,278	28	11,091	0
15.	Smarty Jones (Pa)	810	34	77	7	8	John Jones ($49,827)	275,734	21	8,110	0
16.	Golden Lad (Md)	107	18	34	3	4	Cinnabunny ($48,600)	236,877	17	13,160	0
17.	Not For Love (deceased)	975	21	62	6	9	Easy River ($55,515)	225,772	29	10,751	0
18.	Ice Box (Pa)	296	51	136	12	12	Its Cold in Dehere ($18,744)	192,711	24	3,779	0
19.	Limehouse (WV)	475	41	108	9	9	Recount ($20,260)	189,795	22	4,629	0
20.	Street Magician (Md)	142	21	55	7	8	Magical Luna ($28,379)	185,238	33	8,821	0
21.	Bourbon Courage (Md)	76	15	28	4	5	Double Shot ($45,000)	180,832	27	12,055	0
22.	Albert the Great (pensioned)	412	16	41	5	10	Geebert ($36,120)	170,129	31	10,633	0
23.	Lord Shanakill (Pa)	212	30	75	6	7	Time Shanakill ($23,949)	161,460	20	5,382	0
24.	Desert Party (Pa)	248	22	55	5	5	Desert Lights ($33,046)	155,481	23	7,067	0
25.	Seville (Ger) (deceased)	201	24	59	3	5	O K Game On ($39,840)	148,774	13	6,199	0
26.	Uptowncharlybrown (Pa)	58	10	19	2	2	Wait for It ($58,160)	127,140	20	12,714	0
27.	Friend Or Foe (Va)	28	2	4	1	2	Mr. Buff ($118,250)	123,389	50	61,695	1
28.	Talent Search (Pa)	165	20	45	1	1	Final Shot ($50,360)	118,454	5	5,923	0
29.	Weigelia (Pa)	151	30	67	4	4	Risque's Jewel ($15,180)	116,648	13	3,888	0
30.	Petionville (Md)	760	15	39	3	4	Graves Island ($51,420)	114,854	20	7,657	0
31.	Outflanker (Md)	572	13	36	4	5	Flirtation Walk ($16,470)	111,996	31	8,615	0
32.	Medallist (Pa)	206	9	27	3	4	Flashy Kyem ($40,250)	111,477	33	12,386	0
33.	Exclusive Quality (deceased)	350	27	65	6	6	Tomarie ($23,460)	109,222	22	4,045	0
34.	Imagining (Md)	82	17	35	1	1	Quiet Imagination ($26,133)	107,410	6	6,318	0
35.	Orientate (pensioned)	862	23	57	2	2	Sweet Turn ($25,840)	104,840	9	4,558	0
36.	Swiss Yodeler (WV)	788	13	39	6	8	Swiss Sunrise ($23,955)	104,398	46	8,031	0
37.	Partner's Hero (Pa)	463	6	17	2	3	Lucky Hero ($47,280)	100,895	33	16,816	0
38.	Denis of Cork (WV)	140	18	52	5	6	Im a Tricky One ($20,575)	100,622	28	5,590	0
39.	Nicanor (pensioned)	44	12	32	2	4	Seany P ($44,679)	93,577	17	7,798	0
40.	Cal Nation (Pa)	53	13	39	2	2	Earned It ($25,217)	89,670	15	6,898	0
41.	Machen (WV)	81	15	34	5	5	True Purpose ($17,715)	84,585	33	5,639	0
42.	Silver Train (deceased)	539	12	31	5	5	Cattle Drive ($18,960)	81,718	42	6,810	0
43.	Redeemed (Md)	103	18	45	3	3	Redeemed Spirit ($21,328)	80,396	17	4,466	0
44.	Tritap (deceased)	41	10	20	1	1	Tap the Mark ($29,700)	80,037	10	8,004	0
45.	Crown of Thorns (Pa)	55	12	36	4	5	Crown and Sugar ($17,640)	77,468	33	6,456	0
46.	Reflect Times (Jpn) (Pa)	27	6	17	4	4	Attentively ($30,652)	77,431	67	12,905	0
47.	Done Talking (SC)	26	8	24	4	4	Walk Away Joe ($24,230)	72,228	50	9,029	0
48.	Winchill (Pa)	23	7	11	3	3	You Must Chill ($41,640)	71,890	43	10,270	0
49.	Louis Quatorze (deceased)	992	7	18	2	2	Kosher Kontract ($19,997)	71,640	29	10,234	0
50.	Officer Rocket (GB) (deceased)	43	11	31	6	6	Rocket Road ($16,100)	71,486	55	6,499	0
51.	Rimrod (Pa)	112	7	15	2	3	Diagonal ($30,990)	68,210	29	9,744	0
52.	Capo Bastone (WV)	34	12	27	4	5	Azzurra ($24,244)	65,848	33	5,487	0
53.	Mad Flatter (deceased)	48	13	26	3	3	Glowing Star ($21,980)	65,715	23	5,055	0
54.	Mr. Sidney (Va)	133	15	44	2	2	Just You and Me ($13,975)	65,089	13	4,339	0
55.	Rockport Harbor (deceased)	472	14	45	3	3	Blue Harbor ($19,180)	62,971	21	4,498	0
56.	Emperor Tiberius (Pa)	36	2	4	1	2	E T's Gypsy Woman ($62,650)	62,900	50	31,450	0
57.	Our Entourage (WV)	26	7	16	3	3	Martha's Banner ($22,375)	59,653	43	8,522	1
58.	Well Spelled (Pa)	33	12	26	3	3	Sweet Magic Moment ($21,921)	56,673	25	4,723	0
59.	Gandhi (WV)	35	14	33	4	4	Gandhi's Castle ($12,501)	55,394	29	3,957	0
60.	Wiseman's Ferry (deceased)	308	3	5	1	1	Wise Jude ($51,520)	53,770	33	17,923	0
61.	Garnered (WV)	105	4	9	2	3	Mean Bean ($43,525)	53,687	50	13,422	1
62.	Normandy Invasion (Pa)	58	13	31	1	1	Bella Invasion ($33,550)	52,629	8	4,048	0
63.	Fairbanks (deceased)	229	11	31	1	1	Risque Rebel ($15,640)	48,610	9	4,419	0
64.	Swagger Jack (pensioned)	10	2	9	2	3	Southern Swagg ($38,100)	46,422	100	23,211	0
65.	Siente El Trueno (WV)	22	8	16	2	2	Triple Bad ($18,613)	45,806	25	5,726	0

Accidental Champion

A few years ago when the Pons brothers, Josh and Mike, decided to create broodmare breeding partnerships, their purpose was twofold. They wanted to introduce new people to the experience of owning a broodmare and the highs and lows that accompany that pursuit while, in the process, acquiring quality mares for the books of their first-year stallions. When they chose the name Raise You for these ventures, it brought back a flood of memories of my introduction to Thoroughbred racing and breeding.

When I was a young man just being introduced to the Thoroughbred game, I worked for the Wetherill family in Newtown Square, Pa., near the Radnor Hunt Club. Their son, Peter, was an aspiring hunter rider and my wife Dixie and I were hired to care for his ponies and horses and take him to horse shows all over the East Coast. This began as I was graduating from college and continued while I attended law school and while I worked as a law clerk for a judge in West Chester. Obviously, Dixie did most of the work.

Peter's parents were deeply involved in Thoroughbred racing and breeding. His mother, Ella Widener Wetherill, called "Tootie" by everyone, was the daughter of P.A.B. Widener, exemplar of the turf and the owner of Elmendorf Farm in Kentucky. Tootie's mother, Gertrude, owned the Preakness winner Polynesian and the Woodlawn Vase was prominently displayed in the Wetherill house at their Happy Hill Farm. Peter's father, Cortright "Cortie" Wetherill raced in New York under that nom de course. He was a Jockey Club member and a great friend of Alfred Vanderbilt, owner of Sagamore Farm and the breeder of Native Dancer.

When I came on the scene, Tootie's horses were all in France with legendary trainer Francois Boutin and Cortie had horses in New York with Frank Wright and Phil Johnson. This was big-time breeding and racing. I spent many hours with Cortie and I became fascinated by his knowledge and theories on Thoroughbred breeding and pedigrees.

There was one particular story that deeply affected me about the genetic crapshoot that we call breeding.

In 1947 while Mr. Wetherill was still at college in Princeton he bought a New Jersey-bred yearling filly at Saratoga from the Pons family's Country Life Farm. She was by Case Ace out of Lady Glory by American Flag. Named Raise You, the filly won four races at 2 including the Colleen, the Polly Drummond Stakes, and the New Jersey Futurity. At 3 she clipped heels and fell in a race at Delaware Park. She suffered a torn eyelid as her only injury and, although she did win a race at 4, she would never go between horses again.

Bred as a 5-year-old to Double Jay she produced Double Dealer, the winner of 12 races but only $37,965. The Wetherills, regular Claiborne Farm clients, next bred Raise You to *Princequillo with whom she produced Kingmaker, a gelding which won 13 races including the Whitney Stakes, the New Orleans Handicap and the Grey Lag Handicap in track record time. He earned $243,205, a huge sum in the 1950s. She was bred to Polynesian in 1953 and back to *Princequillo in 1954. Barren in 1955, she produced the stakes-placed winner National Gallery, by *Daumier, in 1957.

The story that came back to me about the genetic lottery that we call breeding concerned Mr. Wetherill's breeding plans for 1957. The story told around the Happy Hill dinner table in the 1970s was that Cortie fell out with Bull Hancock in 1956 in the paddock in Saratoga. He approached Mr. Hancock to confirm that he would be breeding Raise You back to *Princequillo in 1957. Mr. Hancock allegedly said that Claiborne would be unable to accommodate that request even though Kingmaker was tearing up the racetrack. Mr. Wetherill, in a rage, turned on his heels and walked away. The first person that he saw was Alfred Vanderbilt who said that he would love to have Raise You in Native Dancer's book for 1957. As the story was told, that mating produced Raise a Native, one of the most influential sires of the second half of the 20th century. The facts as gleaned from a cursory look at Raise You's produce record tell a different and less dramatic story. The mare was, indeed, bred to Native Dancer in 1957, however, the foal she produced in 1958 was the stakes-placed and prolific producer My Sister Kate, who set a track record at Keeneland and produced fillies that were the dams and granddams of countless major stakes winners.

After another trip to visit Polynesian in 1958, Raise You was bred to Native Dancer again in 1959 and produced the filly Aces Swinging, a winner and the dam of the Grade 1 winner One On the Aisle.

Returned again to Native Dancer in 1960, Raise You finally produced the colt that would set the racing world alight. Because 1961 was a "tax year" for Happy Hill Farm, the decision was taken to sell the unnamed colt as a weanling. He fetched a bid of $22,000 ($190,000 in today's dollars) from Mrs. E.H. Augustus of Keswick Farm in Virginia. Mrs. Augustus pinhooked the colt into the Saratoga sale where he resold to Louis Wolfson's Harbor View Farm for $39,000 ($330,000 today). Sent to future Hall of Famer and 2-year-old specialist Burley Parke and named Raise a Native he came quickly to hand, won all four of his starts at 2 and set track records in three of them. He won Aqueduct's Juvenile Stakes and the Great American Stakes.

Charles Hatton, the preeminent racing writer of his day, wrote a throwaway line at the bottom of one of his Saratoga dispatches. "Raise a Native worked three-eighths on the backstretch at Saratoga this morning, the trees swayed." Those three words captured the brilliance of the horse that would be named champion 2-year-old of 1963 and whose career ended in the summer of that year with a bowed tendon.

When he was syndicated by Leslie Combs to stand at Spendthrift Farm Mr. Wetherill eagerly purchased a share. I once asked him if it was difficult for him to pay more for 1/40th of Raise a Native than he had received for him for two years earlier. Philosophically, he said that the sale had made his tax year and he owned most of the rest of the family, including Raise You and many of her daughters.

One hardly needs to recount Raise a Native's influence on the Thoroughbred breed. Sire of Alydar, Mr. Prospector and Majestic Prince, grandsire of Triple Crown winner Affirmed, Raise a Native appears in the paternal sire line of 21 Kentucky Derby winners including Triple Crown winners American Pharoah and Justify.

A mating created in a fit of pique, with no thought to the fine points of pedigree analysis and continued annually out of an unwillingness to forgive a slight in the Saratoga paddock resulted in one of the truly monumental sire lines of the last half century. ✹

Now retired (mostly), Rick Abbott has been a breeder, owner, sales consignor, racing commissioner and pretty much anything else you can think of in Thoroughbred racing.

Mid-Atlantic-bred stakes winners

MD-bred: FIELD PASS.

Field Pass joins banner list of classic Turfway winners

Turfway Park's Jeff Ruby Steaks, a Grade 3 test for 3-year-old classic hopefuls, has a long history under many names (the Spiral, Jim Beam, Galleryfurniture.com, Turfway Spiral, Lane's End, Vinery Racing Spiral, Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati Spiral, Jack Cincinnati Casino Spiral and finally Jeff Ruby Steaks) since its first running in 1976. And a long list of top-class runners, including a number born in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Field Pass joined Maryland-breds Broad Brush and New York Hero, Virginia-bred two-time classic winner Hansel, and Pennsylvania-breds Lil E. Tee (1992 Kentucky Derby winner), Hard Spun and Fast and Accurate to win Turfway's premier event now sponsored by the Jeff Ruby steakhouses.

Owned by Three Diamonds Farm, Field Pass had no trouble his first time tackling 1⅛ miles as he ran down Invader in the final strides to win by a neck on the all-weather track in 1:49.34. It was his second stakes win in a row after scoring in Gulfstream Park's Dania Beach at 1 mile on the turf in February.

Trainer Mike Maker won the race for the sixth time, three in the past four years: "I try to bring some of my better turf horses for the Ruby. It's paid off over the years. [Field Pass] ran a great race off the bench in the Dania Beach in a very competitive field and I thought he would run very well here." Maker described Field Pass as a good-sized horse with great conformation and a great mind, and, even though the colt earned 20 points toward entry in the Kentucky Derby field, Maker will continue to target grass races in the future for the son of Lemon Drop Kid.

Field Pass was bred by New Jersey resident Mark Grier, who got into racing two decades ago and has campaigned a number of stakes performers, including 2019 graded stakes winner Eons. Grier has bred on a small scale, retiring his race mares and foaling primarily in Kentucky, but about five years ago chose to send mares to Maryland. Among those boarded at the Bowman family's Roland Farm near Chesapeake City was the dam of Field Pass. The Runaway Groom mare Only Me was purchased for Grier by Pewter Stable for $12,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2006 fall yearling sale. "I was interested in the Blushing Groom/Runaway Groom pedigree," noted Grier. Only Me raced five seasons for Grier, won eight of 29 starts and earned just shy of $200,000. "Only Me was an honest and competitive racehorse—she always tried hard," said Grier. "She did well."

No longer in production and living in retirement in Maryland, Only Me has two named foals—Field Pass and the Pennsylvania-bred Winchill gelding You Must Chill, sold for $4,500 at the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale. After starting his career as a 2-year-old at Del Mar with trainer George Papaprodromou for Bode Miller and winning early in his 3-year-old season for a $50,000 tag at Santa Anita, You Must Chill made his first start in Pennsylvania March 2, winning an allowance at Parx.

Field Pass was consigned by Becky Davis as a yearling to the 2018 Midlantic Eastern Fall sale and purchased for $37,000 by Owls Bloodstock. He is the first graded stakes winner bred by Grier.

Maryland-bred

FIELD PASS

Jeff Ruby Steaks-G3

$200,000-guaranteed, 1⅛ mi., synthetic, 3-year-olds. Turfway Park, March 14.

	Kingmambo	Mr. Prospector	Raise a Native
			Gold Digger
		Miesque	Nureyev
Lemon Drop Kid			Pasadoble
	Charming Lassie	Seattle Slew	Bold Reasoning
			My Charmer
		Lassie Dear	Buckpasser
Field Pass, gr./ro.c., 2017			Gay Missile
	Runaway Groom	Blushing Groom (Fr)	Red God
			Runaway Bride (GB)
		Yonnie Girl	Call the Witness
Only Me			Po'chile
	Rackliff Island	Polish Numbers	Danzig
			Numbered Account
		Foggy Moon	*Grey Dawn II
			*New Moon II

	starts	1st	2nd	3rd	earnings
19	6	1	2 (1)	0	$115,750
20 (sw)	2	2 (2)	0	0	172,900
	8	3 (2)	2 (1)	0	$288,650 (through March 14)

2019: 2nd **With Anticipation S-G3. 2020:** 1st $100,000 **Dania Beach S**, 1 mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Gulfstream, Feb. 1; $200,000 **Jeff Ruby S-G3**, 1⅛ mi., synthetic, 3-year-olds, Turfway, March 14.

Bred by Mark Brown Grier (Md.); owned by Three Diamonds Farm; trained by Michael J. Maker.

Sire: **LEMON DROP KID,** b., 96, stands at Lane's End, Versailles, Ky.

Dam: ONLY ME, gr./ro., 05, bred by Lambholm and Jayeff B Stables (Fla.). Raced 5 years, 29 starts, 8 wins, 3 to 6, $192,485. (FTM Oct 06—$12,000)

14 Foal born dead.

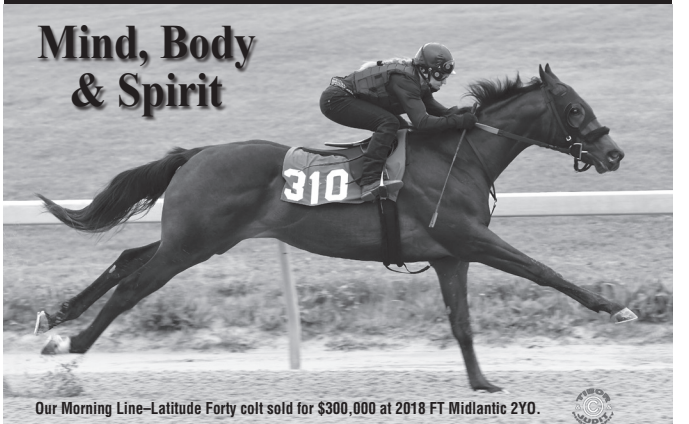
15 gr./ro.c. by Artie Schiller.

16 You Must Chill, gr./ro.g. by Winchill. Raced 3 years, 12 starts, 2 wins at 3 and 4, $81,052. (FTM Oct 17—$4,500)

17 **FIELD PASS**, gr./ro.c. by Lemon Drop Kid. (FTM Oct 18—$37,000)

18 gr./ro.c. by Imagining. Died in 2018.

Educating and conditioning the complete horse



Our Morning Line–Latitude Forty colt sold for $300,000 at 2018 FT Midlantic 2YO.

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Hope for the future, challenges for the present

BY TOM LAMARRA

Only a few days after live racing in Maryland came to a halt because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, a blueprint for the future of Thoroughbred racing in the state was approved by the General Assembly amid broad bipartisan support.

The Racing and Community Development Act of 2020, which authorizes financing for the rebuild of Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park, cleared the legislature March 18, which turned out to be the final day of the COVID-abbreviated session. The legislation calls for the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to $375 million in bonds for the project through a combination of funds from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account, the Purse Dedication Account, video lottery terminal payments to Baltimore City and money from the Maryland Lottery.

The measure had strong support from the outset–House of Delegates Speaker Adrienne Jones and Guy Guzzone, who chairs the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee–were the primary sponsors. The House passed a conference committee version of the bill by a vote of 113-14 a short while after the Senate voted 44-1 to approve the measure. A selling point for the bill was that it relies heavily on existing legislated funds.

Though actual reconstruction of the racing facilities isn't expected to begin until 2021, the Racing and Community Development Act has taken on added meaning given the economic shutdown that began as COVID-19 cases began to multiply in Maryland in late March and early April. The Laurel and Pimlico projects, which could take a combined three-plus years, will not only protect jobs but create them at a critical time.

The MSA is designated to oversee the path of the projects and development of the timeline for construction. There will be a transition period plan developed by the MTHA and Maryland Jockey Club so live racing can continue while construction is underway. Officials involved in the plan said Laurel, where the stable area also will be rebuilt, is first on the list.

Though the projects mark an exciting time for the Maryland racing industry, there was little time to celebrate after the General Assembly ended its session. The shutdown of live racing after the March 15 program at Laurel created a series of far more pressing issues for the MTHA and MJC.

As of mid-April, the six casinos in Maryland had been shuttered for a month, and the seriousness of the closures was reflected in the revenue report issued by the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency. Total casino revenue in March was down almost 58 percent from March 2019.

The Purse Dedication Account receives 6 percent of video lottery terminal revenue from five casinos and 2.5 percent from the sixth. In March, the Thoroughbred share was $2.06 million versus $4.93 million for the same month last year, which at the time was a record for the state. For the first three months of 2020, Thoroughbred racing had earned $11.1 million from VLTs compared with $13.1 million for the same period in 2019.

The purse account derives a large chunk of revenue from VLTs. In addition, with live racing suspended–and also full-card simulcasts at tracks and off-track betting parlors in the state–pari-mutuel revenue for purses and other programs also has been lost.

The MTHA and MJC were strategizing on how to best utilize available resources when live racing returned, as it was plausible to believe a no-patron policy would help facilitate a re-opening. For three days in March, Laurel was able to safely and successfully offer live racing with only essential personnel on hand and social distancing in place.

The partners were in contact with state government officials to seek some clarity on a timeline for a return to action.

The MTHA, in light of the COVID-19 situation, continued to address backstretch issues and needs and served as a conduit for information on various economic relief programs quickly put in place by federal and state government. Small businesses, which abound in horse racing, were the primary target for the first round of programs.

To illustrate the impact the virus shutdown has had on small businesses, two Maryland programs–one for loans and the other for grants for a total of $175 million–stopped accepting applications April 6, just two weeks after they were announced by Gov. Larry Hogan, because of volume. State officials said they were hopeful some of the future aid from the federal government could be set aside for those particular state programs.

The MTHA, in partnership with Pennsylvania horsemen's groups, hosted an April 3 webinar during which individuals with legal and accounting expertise outlined economic relief programs and took questions from horsemen. The webinar, as well as a supplemental question-and-answer document for follow-up, are both posted on the mdhorsemen.com website as a resource.

Attorneys on the webinar noted there was a good chance the federal government would either expand existing loan and grant programs or pass a larger piece of legislation based on high demand for the funding. The MTHA will continue to update related information on economic assistance programs. ✹

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Manfuso, 82, made big impact on Maryland racing

By Vinnie Perrone

Early in the fall of 2018, Wayne Harrison said he managed a racing first after 30-plus years of trying. He won an argument with close friend and business partner Bob Manfuso.

The issue: Where next to race Saratoga Bob, an oversized, Manfuso-bred allowance winner they co-owned. Harrison steered toward the Maryland Million Classic before Manfuso grabbed the wheel. Opinions veered. Points sideswiped counterpoints. Rationales collided.

Trainer Katy Voss, Manfuso's longtime partner, assessed the field and seconded Harrison. Manfuso pondered, stewed, then acceded. By a dwindling half-length, Saratoga Bob made the Classic his first and only stakes win.

"I'm in an elite group," Harrison said about the victory–the conversational one.

Then this: "Bob was one of a kind. Everybody knew you had to do it his way or you really did have to take the highway. But if you got to know his personality, knew what string to pull, which one not to pull, he was always a true friend. With all he's done for the horse racing industry, I don't how you're gonna replace him."

On the evening of March 19, gait burdened, Manfuso managed the stairs to the second floor at Chanceland Farm and readied for bed. Voss said she heard a noise, moved toward it, met the scene she feared. Bob Manfuso was 82.

Neena Ewing

In addition to Voss, survivors include son Robert Manfuso Jr., daughter Elizabeth Manfuso Pothier, sisters Claudia Knudsen and Ann Paras; and four granddaughters.

From the mid-1980s, Bob Manfuso had backed explicit words with explicit deeds to revive and invigorate facets of the Maryland racing industry: as co-owner of Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course; as unsung backer of the Maryland Million; as partner of the Fourbros Stable that raced and stood Shelter Half; as savvy auction fixture; as breeder of state-bred champion Cathryn Sophia and co-breeder with Voss of another millionaire, International Star, son of

homemade broodmare heroine Parlez; as Voss' complement in creating Chanceland in West Friendship, Howard County, and authoring gaudy annual feats at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's Yearling Show.

"He was terrific at all the things he did," said friend and breeder George Doetsch Jr. of Marama Farm.

Born in Washington, D.C., Robert Tyree Manfuso grew up at the intersection of zeal and opportunity. His father, prominent breeder John A. Manfuso Sr., helped found the national Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association in 1940 and later served as CEO of Burton, Parsons & Co. pharmaceuticals.

For school-age Bob Manfuso, morning backstretch jaunts with dad and older brother Tommy made the senses tingle. Dad gave the boys a whiff of racing life; later came the taste.

"He was funny that way," Bob said of his father. "The morning was one thing. I remember vividly Thanksgiving and Christmas in those days, when he used to buy full-dressed hogs and give them to whoever was training for him, the backstretch help, and we always went with him as a traditional kind of thing. But you never went to the races with him in the afternoon. I think I snuck out a couple of times on my own, but you didn't come with him until you were 14 or 15."

Bob attended the regarded Landon School in Bethesda, then Princeton, worked as Burton Parsons marketing and sales director. The company grew; so too his racing interests.

He formed Fourbros Stable with brother Tommy and brothers George and Jeff Huguely in the early 1970s and turned a hunch into urgent gain. John Manfuso Sr. stood Salt Spray, a stallion Bob deemed underappreciated; in 1973, Fourbros spent $8,000 on his 2-year-old daughter Crackerfax, who won two stakes and $129,019 through 1976, then passed the torch to Shelter Half.

Fourbros paid $14,500 for the yearling son of Tentam and Chris Chenery's stakes-winning Gay Matelda, sent him to trainer Tuffy Hacker and unloosed a bracing sprinter on the Mid-Atlantic. Shelter Half won six stakes at five tracks, 14 races all told, and earned most of $236,337 in 1978 and '79 alone. Fourbros stood Shelter Half at Glade Valley Farms for more than two decades, the stallion responsible for abundant black-type runners and the unraced Cruising Haven, third dam of Cathryn Sophia.

In 1979, John Manfuso Sr. sold Burton Parsons for more than $100 million, which left Bob the time and financial might to power deeper into racing. Within five years, he unseated Fendall Clagett as president of the Maryland HBPA (precursor to the MTHA) but barely served; less than a month post-election, he, Tommy and Frank De Francis bought Laurel racetrack.

Bob Manfuso had helped De Francis syndicate the stallion Hail Emperor and admired the way De Francis revived the downbeat Freestate Raceway harness track. Manfuso's idea to buy Laurel stirred De Francis, then-Maryland Secretary of Economic and Community Development, on the condition the brothers cede controlling interest. And so it happened.

To Bob Manfuso, growth prospects dazzled for a once-esteemed circuit grayed by managerial inaction, dwindling purses, structural decay, defecting fans, dejected horsemen.

"I loved horses, I loved the racing, I loved the backstretch," he said. "I knew that Maryland racing was in trouble, and I knew that we were rapidly deteriorating to a very mediocre product in terms of the sport. It became very clear to me that someone was going to have to buy one of these mile race tracks if Maryland were ever to move forward."

Frontman De Francis glad-handing bettors and devising alluring promotional giveaways, Bob Manfuso managing racing and stakes operations and Tommy the physical plant, a fresh energy dispelled the gloom. State mutuel takeout slashed, exotic wagers introduced, a capital-improvements campaign fully evident, the *Baltimore Sun* dubbed the renaissance "The Maryland Miracle."

Other wonders germinated. Broadcasting horseman Jim McKay had shared his longshot conception of a "Maryland Breeders' Cup" with trainer Billy Boniface and Pimlico general manager Chick Lang. Word soon found Bob Manfuso, who praised the aim and pledged Laurel's full support. In October 1986, the track hosted the first Maryland Million, a template since copied by most every racing state.

"Bobby helped the cause," said Rich Wilcke, then president of the Maryland Million. "He was easy to work with. He was very enthusiastic. And he was a key player for the first several years of the Maryland Million."

A month after the Million debuted, the Manfusos and De Francis bought Pimlico. Soon emerged the fashionably novel Sports Palace in each track clubhouse and intertrack wagering between the mile tracks.

Pursuing ITW and previous legislative bids, Bob Manfuso had worked alongside trainer and MTHA board member Katy Voss. Their growing closeness defied geography: Manfuso lived in Montgomery County and Voss in Baltimore City. Manfuso asked Voss about getting a farm together. Her instinctive thought: What in the world do I want a farm for?

The former marketing guy polished the sales pitch, and soon they were scouting properties in Howard County, appealing for its equidistance between Pimlico and Laurel. They settled on a 191-acre field of wheat and barley abutting I-70.

"It was just a blank canvas," Voss said.

The purchase hinged on county approval to allow house construction and concluded as part of a complex three-way land exchange.

As Chanceland Farm transformed to a bona fide breeding, training and boarding center in 1989, other landscapes changed. De Francis died on a trip to Puerto Rico that August, and 34-year-old son Joe succeeded him as president and majority partner of the tracks. A Washington lawyer with no track-management experience, De Francis couldn't bridge a treacherous personal and philosophical gulf with the Manfusos. Nine months later, Bob and Tommy resigned from daily operations.

The original stockholders' agreement bore an unusual "Russian roulette" provision expressly designed to stanch internal warfare. In the fall of 1993, the Manfusos invoked the clause by offering to sell their 50 percent share in Laurel and 47 percent in Pimlico for $8.2 million. Joe De Francis had 90 days to make the purchase or sell his stake to the Manfusos for that very price.

The showdown bore cinematic drama. Unable to make the plunge alone, De Francis had solicited help from Hollywood Park owner R.D. Hubbard, a curious development given Bob Manfuso's position on the Hollywood board. The morning of Jan. 21, 1994, Hubbard's operatives met with De Francis at Laurel Park. As they waited in an outer office on the cusp of a deal, De Francis announced he would buy Pimlico and Laurel with financial aid from Jack Kent Cooke, then owner of Kentucky's Elmendorf Farm and the NFL's Washington Redskins.

The turmoil ended, Manfuso redoubled his breeding and racing commitments at Chanceland.

In 1995, 3-year-old Royal Haven won three of his first four starts for Manfuso and Voss, whereupon he was claimed for $75,000 at Saratoga. The Hail Emperor gelding, out of the Shelter Half mare Cruising Haven, took three New York graded stakes at 5 and Laurel's Grade 2 General George Handicap at 6.

Belterra, Royal Haven's half-sister by Unbridled, won the 2001 Golden Rod Stakes-G2 at Churchill Downs for Manfuso, showed in the Ashland-G1 a year later at 3 and produced two females of note: stakes-winner Taketheodds (by Street Sense) and unraced Sheave (Mineshaft), whose first foal was the Street Boss-sired Cathryn Sophia.

Principally breeding to sell, Manfuso and Voss put Cathryn Sophia in the 2014 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale and got

$30,000 from Chuck Zacney of Cash is King. After Cathryn Sophia won the Kentucky Oaks-G1, interest in the big, smart, physically offset Sheave turned frenzied.

Japanese investors had inquired for months, Voss said, from the time Cathryn Sophia won two graded stakes that winter at Gulfstream Park; after the Oaks, the growing offers became too great to repel. Manfuso sold Sheave in foal again to Street Boss.

As she headed east, Manfuso headed south to receive the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's Small Breeder of the Year award.

Thirteen days before Cathryn Sophia won her 2-year-old debut, Corvus introduced himself with a victory in the Maryland Million Nursery for Manfuso, Voss and Harrison. Corvus became the first stakes winner for the Polish Numbers mare Tanca and blazed a trail for his siblings. In 2019, Tanca offspring Cordmaker (by Curlin) and Las Setas (Seville-Ger) won Maryland-bred divisional championships.

Jerry Dzierwinski

Bob Manfuso (left), Katy Voss and Wayne Harrison at the 2020 Renaissance Awards with trophies for 2019 champion 3-year-old filly Las Setas.

Tanca has a fetching 3-year-old Imagining filly, Voss said, yet unraced for her largeness, adding, "My crew thought she was a better mover, and felt like a better horse, than Las Setas."

A few other Chanceland broodmares have gone to Imagining and other Maryland stallions, Voss said, because Manfuso sought to support quality upgrades by state stud farms. Except for producers Manfuso solely owned or had dedicated to prescribed stallion arrangements, she said, they determined matings together, the conversations often cordial.

Not so political discussions.

"We'd probably argue about politics," Voss said. "He was registered as an independent, but he's a staunch Republican. And I'm a Democrat. So take it from there."

Manfuso and Voss effected sweet harmony at the annual MHBA yearling show, last year's Midshipman filly becoming their sixth grand champion since 2011 and Manfuso's ninth overall. In 2018, they won with a Fed Biz colt; the year before that, with a Noble Mission (GB) colt from Manfuso's graded stakes-winning Island Bound. (Island Bound's first foal, by Tiznow, went for $500,000 at the 2015 Keeneland September Yearling Sale.)

"The yearling show got to be a huge deal, basically, for the farm," Voss said. "From the end of May to the end of June, that was the focus of the whole farm crew. We'd always take all of our yearlings, and our crew always worked very hard prepping them. I mean, we'd do a month of show prep just exactly as you would do sales prep."

All the Challenge Cup and class victories rendered Chanceland a forge awash in shiny hardware. Trophies everywhere. Cups given to employees. Silver trays stacked here and there, some even used to freight homegrown tomatoes.

In vital times, when Manfuso spent summers at Saratoga, Voss said she would take him tomatoes from the garden, long beds framed by railroad ties. But late in 2018, he'd had a cancerous kidney removed, and bypassed The Spa altogether last season as his overall health diminished.

He'd received iron infusions for anemia, had one the day he died. Farm walks, typically long and enlivening with Sarah the Rottweiler, became untenable.

"He'd gotten to where he didn't even walk to the barn at lunchtime," Voss said. "And, the last days, it had gotten to where just walking across the room, he'd have to grab a hold of something to catch his breath.

"It was too soon to go, but I'm glad it was sooner rather than later. He wasn't too far out of a wheelchair. His cognitive abilities were fine, but his memory was starting to go . . . So we weren't on a good path."

Still, rationale met acceptance. As to what she'll especially miss, Voss said, "Him. My friend. My soulmate."

Without Manfuso, she said, Chanceland will endure but consolidate: the majority of its 20 broodmares and 50-odd horses will be sold. To that end, coronavirus-wrought disruptions to the sales market, and to pinhookers especially, dimmed her outlook for coming yearling and broodmare auctions.

Coronavirus restrictions prevailing when Manfuso died, Voss managed a small burial ceremony at the Warfield family cemetery, Cherry Grove, in Woodbine March 29 (the farm to hold a celebration sometime hence). Voss' mother, Kitty Merryman, was a Warfield.

Voss said 10 guests, "socially distanced," attended the service inside the cemetery's old stone wall; other family members, friends and employees observed beyond the wall.

Longtime friend Harrison was there, of course. "I can tell you what he said when they put him in the ground," Harrison said. "Everybody move over."

Imposing. Brusque. Direct. Sure, Manfuso had his style, Harrison said. But their friendship, nurtured 35 years, grew from humor and compassion. And a little beer.

On Friday afternoons at Pimlico, mid-1980s, Harrison said he'd gather at Marty's bar with trainer John DiNatale, jockey agent Simon Purdy and a guy introduced only as Bob. For a few weeks they'd talked horses, told jokes, handicapped races. A third-generation horse owner, Harrison turned to Purdy one day and asked, "Why doesn't Bob buy a round?" Said Purdy, "He doesn't have to; he owns the racetrack." Harrison: "You mean that's Bob MANFUSO?"

Beyond Maryland Million Classic winner Saratoga Bob, Harrison's named tribute to Manfuso, they co-campaigned stakes winners Las Setas, Corvus and Plata and stakes-placed Kaitain.

"He was fair on his bills," Harrison said. "And he was a promoter of horse racing. He never wanted to put anybody out of the horse-racing business; he wanted to introduce people to the horse-racing business. I think, because of his wealth and his stature, there was some jealousy there. But he was there with an open ear, although everybody knows, he had his opinions, and they were very, very difficult to change."

Manfuso served on the boards of Breeders' Cup Ltd., Thoroughbred Charities of America, Howard County General Hospital, the MHBA and MTHA. Of his work with Manfuso on the MTHA board, president Tim Keefe said, "Maybe he did bristle some feathers sometimes, but I always appreciated somebody like him. You knew where he stood. There was no guessing. You knew what his thoughts and opinions were, and he wasn't afraid to tell you. I wish even more people were like that."

The depths and bounds of friendship emerge in time of crisis, Harrison said. He'd so realized after he had a heart attack, awoke in hospital fog, found Manfuso in a chair beside the bed.

Words Harrison heard: Be patient. Do the rehab. Get well. In ordinary times, Harrison would have countered with a quip or barb; instead, he only nodded in agreement. Bob Manfuso had a point. ❧

Scholarship applications open

Applications for scholarships made possible through Maryland Thoroughbred industry leaders are being accepted from college students enrolling this fall.

Open to students involved in the state's Thoroughbred industry, the scholarships are made possible through the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, and Maryland Racing Media Association, contributors of the seed money to expand the popular and successful program created and managed by MRMA until the groups came together in 2019. Last year, with the support of additional industry donors and organizations, more than $40,000 was available.

The scholarship program is designed to provide meaningful financial assistance to currently enrolled students who are backstretch employees, work on a Thoroughbred farm or are active members of the Maryland Thorougbred industry.

The two largest scholarships to be presented will be the Lucy Acton Memorial, named in honor of the late editor of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, and the Eddie McMullen in memory of the late jockey, trainer and longtime custodian of the press boxes at Pimlico and Laurel.

Scholarship recipients will be selected by a committee made up of representatives from each contributing organization. Scholarships are paid directly to the college or university upon verification of enrollment.

The application process will be done online through the Maryland Thoroughbred Industry Scholarship Fund website at mdthoroughbred scholarship.com.

Deadline for applications is July 15 (subject to change). ❧

Yearling show postponed to July

The 86th Annual MHBA Yearling Show has been rescheduled for Sunday, July 19 at the Maryland State Fairgounds in Timonium. The change from its customary late-June date was made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Open to all yearlings eligible for Maryland-bred registration, the show will once again offer four classes–one for colts and geldings, and one for fillies, foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in Maryland; plus another for colts and geldings, as well as one for fillies, foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in states other than Maryland.

All yearlings shown will be eligible for the $40,000 MHBA Yearling Show purse, which will be split and distributed twice–to the top four money-winners racing at 2 and the top earners at 3.

Entries are due Monday, June 15. Go to the news and events section of marylandthoroughbred.com to find more details and to enter online. ❧

Maryland-bred registration extended

The Maryland-bred registration deadline for yearlings of 2020 has been extended to Tuesday, June 30.
To register your Maryland-bred yearling online, go to marylandthoroughbred.com.

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races at Maryland tracks
February 1 to March 15, 2020

Breeder bonuses

Linda Albert and Thomas Baldwin—KOSHER KONTRACT: Feb. 21, 4th race, $1,449; March 6, 2nd race, $1,449. ($2,898)

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—PORT LOUIS: Feb. 23, 8th race, $1,155.

Robert Atkinson and Mary Atkinson—ORTINOLA: Feb. 9, 4th race, $759; March 7, 1st race, $1,449. ($2,208)

Barak Farm—LECTRIC CHOKE: Feb. 9, 5th race, $1,449; March 13, 1st race, $1,890. LET'S PLAY NINE: Feb. 1, 7th race, $2,205; March 13, 4th race, $5,985. NINE MARTINIS: March 1, 7th race, $4,959. STROLL SMOKIN: Feb. 15, 9th race, $7,182; March 14, 3rd race, $990. ($24,660)

William Bayne—D C FIREMAN: Feb. 16, 6th race, $3,933.

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—LUDICROUS MODE: Feb. 7, 1st race, $3,078; Feb. 28, 3rd race, $759. ($3,837)

Karen Benshoff and Ronald Benshoff—MARYLANDER: March 6, 6th race, $4,959.

Best A Luck Farm LLC—MY FRIENDS BEER: Feb. 2, 4th race, $2,646; March 14, 10th race $3,000. ($5,646)

Black Fox Farm—LUCKY EMBER: Feb. 23, 1st race, $3,078.

David Benjamin Bloom—BULLETS CHILD: Feb. 22, 5th race, $4,788.

Bonita Farm—CALYPSO GHOST: Feb. 14, 3rd race, $5,130.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—MARKET MOVER: Feb. 17, 2nd race, $1,089; March 8, 7th race, $2,079. MY QUEEN MICHELLE: Feb. 13, 5th race, $1,386; March 6, 7th race, $7,182. TOM TERRIFIC: March 1, 8th race, $3,078. ($14,814)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Adena Springs—MICE AND MEN: Feb. 14, 7th race, $3,933; Feb. 23, 8th race, $2,205. ($6,138)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—BOURBON AGOGO: Feb. 9, 2nd race, $594.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and Adena Springs—ONE TWO THREE GO: Feb. 9, 7th race, $4,959.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dutrow Thoroughbred Ent. Inc. and Rebecca Davis—EASY RIVER: Feb. 8, 3rd race, $3,933; March 13, 4th race, $2,205. ($6,138)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—ALWAYS TALKING: Feb. 2, 1st race, $3,591; March 14, 8th race, $3,933. DETERMINED CHANCE: Feb. 27, 8th race, $3,762. ($11,286)

Shellaine Brown, Susan Baldrige, Horseshoe Valley and Treasure Stable—GOING TO THE LEAD: Feb. 22, 5th race, $924.

Gerald E. Brooks—LILLY'S LIL GEM: Feb. 2, 1st race, $1,323.

Deborah Butts—MARIE FROM PARIE: Feb. 1, 5th race, $3,249; Feb. 23, 6th race, $594. ($3,843)

A.G. Chaudry—PITCHING ARI: Feb. 2, 4th race, $7,182.

Christ is King Stable—YES MAN: Feb. 6, 3rd race, $726; Feb. 29, 4th race, $1,386. ($2,112)

Patricia Clark and Pamela Arnold—PAUL THE WAITER: March 14, 2nd race, $1,449.

Henry S. Clark III—GLENGAR: March 15, 8th race, $1,134.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—MAKE IT A DOUBLE: Feb. 17, 1st race, $759.

Country Life Farm—VEE'S SUPER STAR: March 1, 8th race, $1,134.

Country Life Farm and Fleet and Fancy LLC—FORFIFTYFIVEROCKET: Feb. 17, 8th race, $990.

Country Life Farm, Friesan Fire Syndicate, Miller Thompson LLC and S. Nelson—GOODLUCK-JOHNATHAN: Feb. 22, 5th race, $1,764.

Country Life Farm and Mrs. J.W.Y. Martin Jr.—EARNED IT: March 8, 4th race, $3,591.

Country Life Farm and Moon Map Broodmare LLC—THREETHEHARDWAY: Feb. 21, 3rd race, $759.

Country Roads Ltd.—LAST CHUKKER: Feb. 14, 1st race, $945; March 7, 5th race, $495. ODDS ON: March 8, 1st race, $3,249. UTTERLY ENCHANTING: Feb. 6, 2nd race, $1,386. ($6,075)

Mike Dalton LLC—CONJECTURE: March 6, 5th race, $1,485.

Dark Hollow Farm—SECURITY BREACH: March 8, 7th race, $1,089. TOY: Feb. 2, 2nd race, $2,520; Feb. 21, 1st race, $6,840. ($10,449)

Dark Hollow Farm and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov—COMBAT QUEEN: Feb. 9, 3rd race, $2,646; March 7, 8th race, $2,646. ($5,292)

David DiPietro—MIDNIGHT CRY: Feb. 17, 6th race, $594.

Double N.K. Partnership and Dennis Jankiewicz—UNSTOPABULL BELLE: March 15, 1st race, $594.

The Elkstone Group LLC—CAN'T PASS IT UP: Feb. 1, 7th race, $1,155; Feb. 27, 7th race, $2,646. ONE LAST TRIAL: Feb. 22, 7th race, $2,646. PLOT THE DOTS: Feb. 17, 2nd race, $5,643. PRETTY GOOD YEAR: Feb. 8, 4th race, $7,182; Feb. 29, 7th race, $1,485. SELF AWARENESS: Feb. 13, 1st race, $2,079; Feb. 29, 1st race, $5,643. ($28,479)

Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable and A. Leonard Pineau—CRUSH IT: March 13, 4th race, $1,155.

Christopher J. Feifarek—OUR STAR: Feb. 16, 5th race, $1,386.

Kristin Fernandez and Ramon Fernandez—SHE'SMYSUNSHINE: Feb. 15, 5th race, $1,500.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—HUFFLEPUFF: Feb. 9, 3rd race, $1,386; Feb. 28, 2nd race, $1,890. ($3,276)

Mrs. Janon Fisher III—FAIRY WISH: Feb. 7, 2nd race, $1,827; Feb. 23, 2nd race, $1,764. ($3,591)

Fitzhugh LLC—LOOKIN DYNAMIC: March 8, 5th race, $5,985. WALL: Feb. 15, 2nd race, $495; Feb. 27, 5th race, $594. WELLING: Feb. 1, 3rd race, $2,520; March 6, 1st race, $2,520. ($12,114)

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—TAPPIN CAT: March 14, 6th race, $2,835.

Morgan's Ford Farm—GOTTAWAY: March 1, 5th race, $594.

Charles Anthony Frock—BARBSGRAY LION: March 8, 3rd race, $495.

Cary Frommer—ZIG: Feb. 6, 4th race, $5,643.

Robert Gerczak—CHICKEN DINNER: Feb. 9, 8th race, $495; March 1, 4th race, $945. LITTLE BAY: Feb. 13, 3rd race, $594. ($2,034)

Michael J. Harrison DVM—HASHTAG SELFIE: Feb. 2, 6th race, $594; March 7, 3rd race, $1,323. ($1,917)

Theresa Rae Haupt—TALENTED DR. B: Feb. 15, 2nd race, $945.

Hickory Ridge Farm—CAREY TIMES: Feb. 8, 5th race, $2,646; March 8, 2nd race, $1,386. ($4,032)

Hillwood Stables LLC—SILVER SIDES: Feb. 13, 8th race, $594.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Holt—QUEEN OF TOMORROW: Feb. 29, 8th race, $891.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Holt, Theodore Montuori and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—TATTOOED: Feb. 8, 7th race, $2,835; Feb. 29, 7th race, $2,835. ($5,670)

Hope Hill Farm and Thomas McGreevy—ESTRELLA GRANDE: Feb. 28, 4th race, $495.

Michael and Debbie Horning—COFFEE PLEASE: Feb. 8, 6th race, $3,078.

Ann Biggs Jackson—ARTFUL SPLATTER: Feb. 13, 5th race, $7,182.

Jennifer B. Johnson and Richard A. Johnson—CROSSINGTHEVALLEY: Feb. 28, 8th race, $495.

R. Larry Johnson—KEEPER IN SPITE: Feb. 7, 3rd race, $1,386. SLEWZER: Feb. 16, 2nd race, $495. YOU MADE IT: Feb. 8, 1st race, $3,933. ($5,814)

R. Larry Johnson and Legacy Farm—GONE HOME: Feb. 6, 7th race, $3,762; Feb. 22, 2nd race, $759; March 15, 7th race, $1,449. ($5,970)

Carol Kaye and Boyce Stable—LAUREL LADY: Feb. 7, 4th race, $1,134; Feb. 28, 1st race, $3,078. ($4,212)

Joanne Krishack—DR. RUSTY RAYMOND: Feb. 29, 4th race, $726.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—LADY FOX: Feb. 16, 3rd race, $2,079.

Legacy Farm—DON'TBAGGAGECHECK: March 1, 1st race, $1,134.

Little Man Farm—EYE OF THE WILDCAT: Feb. 17, 3rd race, $945. FLIRTATION WALK: Feb. 23, 3rd race, $945; March 8, 3rd race, $945. ($2,835)

Kenneth Lowe Jr.—LITTLE MISS RAELYN: March 7, 6th race, $7,182. SPECIAL FREEDOM: Feb. 15, 3rd race, $2,520; March 6, 3rd race, $1,089. ($10,791)

Jennifer Lynn Lunceford and Echo Valley Farm—KICKSTARTMYHEART: March 1, 2nd race, $2,079.

Robert T. Manfuso—CAMPARI: Feb. 14, 1st race, $2,565. FEATURE ACT: Feb. 6, 7th race, $726. MINE NOT MINE: Feb. 15, 6th race, $3,000; March 14, 10th race $1,500. SALTWORKS: March 6, 7th race, $1,386. ($9,177)

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—JUMPING MICHELLE: Feb. 9, 7th race, $1,827.

Marathon Farms Inc.—ABUELO PAPS: March 13, 3rd race, $2,520. BUSTOFF: March 14, 4th race, $2,016. CHUCK'S DREAM: Feb. 13, 3rd race, $3,078. ($7,614)

Daniel Marconi—GALERIO: Feb. 16, 1st race, $6,840; March 14, 11th race $4,788. ($11,628)

Silvio Luis Martin—SINCERE MAN: Feb. 9, 2nd race, $3,078.

Maryland Mare Venture LLC—NAUGHTY THOUGHTS: Feb. 15, 5th race, $9,000; March 14, 7th race, $3,000. ($12,000)

Mezza Luna Farm LLC—MAGICAL LUNA: March 7, 8th race, $1,386.

Bob Miller and Maryann Miller—THE MAGICAL ONE: Feb. 1, 1st race, $1,386; Feb. 22, 6th race, $924. ($2,310)

Angie Moore—SUPER BUDDY: Feb. 14, 8th race, $945.

Kevin P. Morgan—MR. CHESAPEAKECITY: Feb. 13, 7th race, $945; Feb. 29, 2nd race, $2,565; March 8, 1st race, $1,197. YESTERDAYSPLAN: March 7, 3rd race, $693. ($5,400)

Audrey R. Murray—PETION LASS: Feb. 17, 3rd race, $2,565.

Nancy Lee Farms—BANDOLINI: March 1, 3rd race, $3,078. EASTERN BAY: Feb. 21, 5th race, $2,835. JOHN JONES: Feb. 22, 3rd race, $8,037. ($13,950)

Nicewonder Stable LLC—TWIN VALOR: Feb. 13, 2nd race, $2,565.

Non Stop Stable—FINAL PROSPECT: Feb. 22, 4th race, $726.

David W. Palmer—BUCKED TOOTH: Feb. 6, 5th race, $2,565; March 15, 2nd race, $495. ($3,060)

Frank A. Perri Jr.—RAGING BLAZE: March 13, 6th race, $4,788.

Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—BETHABARA: Feb. 7, 3rd race, $3,762. CHEERS N APPLAUSE: Feb. 29, 3rd race, $3,078. COCKTAIL WAITRESS: Feb. 2, 5th race, $726. TRULY HOT: Feb. 2, 5th race, $1,386. ($8,952)

Avla Pitts—ALWAYSMINING: Feb. 15, 4th race, $9,000; March 14, 9th race, $1,500. ROMANOFF: Feb. 15, 6th race, $1,500. ($12,000)

Bobby L. Plummer—IAM A DANCER: Feb. 14, 5th race, $495; Feb. 28, 4th race, $945. ($1,440)

Thomas L. Reynolds—SHADOW BOXER: Feb. 6, 5th race, $495.

Tim Ritchey and Janet Ritchey—DANCER'S MELODY: Feb. 22, 7th race, $1,386.

Timothy J. Rooney—BALLIVOR: Feb. 17, 7th race, $5,130. MONEY FROMHEAVEN: Feb. 1, 8th race, $2,835; March 6, 7th race, $2,646. QUAD EIGHTS: March 1, 6th race, $1,890. SEANY P: Feb. 15, 9th race, $1,386; Feb. 23, 8th race, $5,985. ($19,872)

Sagamore Farm LLC—EDIT AND SIMPLIFY: Feb. 23, 4th race, $1,701. HARPERS FIRST RIDE: Feb. 22, 3rd race, $1,551. START WITH YES: Feb. 6, 1st race, $1,089; Feb. 22, 1st race, $4,617. ($8,958)

Brian C. Schartz and 4M Ranch—FEDERAL WALK: Feb. 22, 4th race, $1,386.

Share the Risk Partnership—LIZ'S SMILE: March 1, 7th race, $1,827.

Sinatra Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding—MUCHACHO: Feb. 1, 7th race, $5,985; Feb. 27, 7th race, $1,386. ($7,371)

Skeedattle Associates—PEP TALKING: March 7, 5th race, $2,565. TABLE MAX: Feb. 7, 1st race, $594; Feb. 27, 1st race, $594. ($3,753)

Smith Farm and Stable—EL ROJO: Feb. 29, 2nd race, $495.

Hamilton Smith—FIVE STAR PERFECT: Feb. 9, 5th race, $759. PERFECT HEIR: Feb. 8, 6th race, $1,134; March 1, 8th race, $594. ($2,487)

Hamilton Smith, Fred A. Greene Jr. and Deborah Greene—MOON VIRGINIA: Feb. 23, 7th race, $990.

Spendthrift Farm LLC—CONFESSOR: Feb. 17, 7th race, $1,890. PATAZ: Feb. 6, 8th race, $693. TOWSON: Feb. 28, 5th race, $2,565. ($5,148)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—LUCKY TRINITY: Feb. 9, 3rd race, $7,182. PAISLEY SINGING: Feb. 17, 1st race, $1,449. PREVAIL UPON: March 8, 7th race, $5,643. ($14,274)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—MAJESTIC REASON: Feb. 15, 7th race, $9,000.

Thornmar Farm LLC—ANY MINUTE NOW: Feb. 2, 7th race, $891. BARRISTER: Feb. 17, 2nd race, $2,079. JUST CHILL OUT: Feb. 7, 1st race, $1,134. ($4,104)

Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—STILL HAVING FUN: Feb. 15, 8th race, $1,500.

Thornmar Farm and Colleen Torsney—JUSTWAVEANDSMILE: Feb. 8, 5th race, $1,386.

Two Legends Farm—BENANDJOE: Feb. 1, 4th race, $4,788; March 14, 2nd race, $759. ($5,547)

Walter Vieser II—DAPPER MUN: Feb. 6, 5th race, $945; Feb. 21, 4th race, $759. NIGHTMARE: Feb. 1, 5th race, $627. ($2,331)

Konrad Wayson—BEAR FORCE WON: Feb. 27, 8th race, $726.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayne Welker Jr.—DESHACKLED: Feb. 13, 1st race, $1,089.

John E. Williamson III—PARADE OF NATIONS: Feb. 29, 5th race, $945.

Edward N. Williams and Mike Mattese—THREE HAWK: Feb. 23, 5th race, $1,485; March 13, 7th race, $1,485. ($2,970)

Willow Oaks Stable—ABSOLVED: Feb. 15, 9th race, $2,646. THIRSTY AGAIN: Feb. 28, 1st race, $1,134. ($3,780)

Mrs. Orme Wilson Jr.—SUPERCROSS: Feb. 9, 6th race, $891; Feb. 29, 1st race, $1,089. ($1,980)

Winding Creek Farm—WHISKEY AND YOU: March 8, 2nd race, $7,182.

Winners Circle Partners VIII—GOLAZO: Feb. 13, 1st race, $5,643.

Mrs. Frank P. Wright—EXPECT TALK: Feb. 14, 6th race, $3,078. MY CHESA CHARM: March 8, 8th race, $945. POWER BACK: Feb. 22, 1st race, $891. ($4,914)

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Little Bay: Feb. 13, 3rd race, $198): Robert Gerczak.

BANDBOX (Artful Splatter: Feb. 13, 5th race, $2,394. Bandolini: March 1, 3rd race, $1,026. Bear Force Won: Feb. 27, 8th race, $242. Queen of Tomorrow: Feb. 29, 8th race, $297. Silver Sides: Feb. 13, 8th race, $198): Bandbox Syndicate—$4,157.

BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Agogo: Feb. 9, 2nd race, $198. Make It a Double: Feb. 17, 1st race, $253): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$451.

CAL NATION (Earned It: March 8, 4th race, $1,197. Parade of Nations: Feb. 29, 5th race, $315. Threethehardway: Feb. 21, 3rd race, $253): Cal Nation Syndicate—$1,765.

CUBA (Sincere Man: Feb. 9, 2nd race, $1,026): J&S Stables LLC.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Always Talking: Feb. 2, 1st race, $1,197; March 14, 8th race, $1,311. Determined Chance: Feb. 27, 8th race, $1,254. Gone Home: Feb. 6, 7th race, $1,254; Feb. 22, 2nd race, $253; March 15, 7th race, $483. Keeper in Spite: Feb. 7, 3rd race, $462. Mr. Chesapeakecity: Feb. 13, 7th race, $315; Feb. 29, 2nd race, $855; March 8, 1st race, $399. Odds On: March 8, 1st race, $1,083. Port Louis: Feb. 23, 8th race, $385. Shadow Boxer: Feb. 6, 5th race, $165. Slewzer: Feb. 16, 2nd race, $165. Utterly Enchanting: Feb. 6, 2nd race, $462): R. Larry Johnson—$10,043.

ETCHED (Calypso Ghost: Feb. 14, 3rd race, $1,710. Tattooed: Feb. 8, 7th race, $945; Feb. 29, 7th race, $945): Bonita Farm Stallion Partnership—$3,600.

FREEDOM CHILD (Bullets Child: Feb. 22, 5th race, $1,596. Confessor: Feb. 17, 7th race, $630. Glengar: March 15, 8th race, $378. Special Freedom: Feb. 15, 3rd race, $840; March 6, 3rd race, $363. Tom Terrific: March 1, 8th race, $1,026): Freedom Child Syndicate—$4,833.

FRIESAN FIRE (D C Fireman: Feb. 16, 6th race, $1,311. Estrella Grande: Feb. 28, 4th race, $165. Goodluckjohnathan: Feb. 22, 5th race, $588. Lucky Ember: Feb. 23, 1st race, $1,026. Raging Blaze: March 13, 6th race, $1,596. Whiskey and You: March 8, 2nd race, $2,394): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$7,080.

GIACOMO (Coffee Please: Feb. 8, 6th race, $1,026): Giacomo Syndicate.

GOLDEN LAD (Any Minute Now: Feb. 2, 7th race, $297. Mine Not Mine: Feb. 15, 6th race, $1,000; March 14, 10th race, $500. Paisley Singing: Feb. 17, 1st race, $483. She'smysunshine: Feb. 15, 5th race, $500): Golden Lad Syndicate—$2,780.

GREAT NOTION (Conjecture: March 6, 5th race, $495. Lilly's Lil Gem: Feb. 2, 1st race, $441. Pretty Good Year: Feb. 8, 4th race, $2,394; Feb. 29, 7th race, $495. Zig: Feb. 6, 4th race, $1,881): Great Notion Syndicate—$5,706.

HUNTERS BAY (Liz's Smile: March 1, 7th race, $609. One Two Three Go: Feb. 9, 7th race, $1,653): Stronach Group LP—$2,262.

IMAGINING (Lady Fox: Feb. 16, 3rd race, $693. Market Mover: Feb. 17, 2nd race, $363; March 8, 7th race, $693): Imagining Syndicate—$1,749.

LION HEARTED (Barbsgray Lion: March 8, 3rd race, $165): Lion Hearted Syndicate.

LOUIS QUATORZE (Iam a Dancer: Feb. 14, 5th race, $165; Feb. 28, 4th race, $315. Kosher Kontract: Feb. 21, 4th race, $483; March 6, 2nd race, $483. Marie From Parie: Feb. 1, 5th race, $1,083; Feb. 23, 6th race, $198): Louis Quatorze Syndicate—$2,727.

NICANOR (Seany P: Feb. 15, 9th race, $462; Feb. 23, 8th race, $1,995): Nicanor Syndicate—$2,457.

NOT FOR LOVE (Crush It: March 13, 4th race, $385. Easy River: Feb. 8, 3rd race, $1,311; March 13, 4th race, $735): Not For Love Syndicate—$2,431.

OUTFLANKER (Chicken Dinner: Feb. 9, 8th race, $165; March 1, 4th race, $315. Eye of the Wildcat: Feb. 17, 3rd race, $315. Flirtation Walk: Feb. 23, 3rd race, $315; March 8, 3rd race, $315. Quad Eights: March 1, 6th race, $630): Outflanker Syndicate—$2,055.

PETIONVILLE (Petion Lass: Feb. 17, 3rd race, $855): Everest Stables Inc.

PLAN (Mice and Men: Feb. 14, 7th race, $1,311; Feb. 23, 8th race, $735. Yesterdaysplan: March 7, 3rd race, $231): Stronach Group LP—$2,277.

REDEEMED (Crossingthevalley: Feb. 28, 8th race, $165. Going to the Lead: Feb. 22, 5th race, $308. Gottaway: March 1, 5th race, $198): Redeemed Syndicate—$671.

SEVILLE (GER) (Five Star Perfect: Feb. 9, 5th race, $253. Last Chukker: Feb. 14, 1st race, $315; March 7, 5th race, $165. Marylander: March 6, 6th race, $1,653. Table Max: Feb. 7, 1st race, $198; Feb. 27, 1st race, $198): Seville (Ger) Syndicate—$2,782.

STREET MAGICIAN (Magical Luna: March 7, 8th race, $462. Midnight Cry: Feb. 17, 6th race, $198. Yes Man: Feb. 6, 3rd race, $242; Feb. 29, 4th race, $462): R. Larry Johnson—$1,364.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Fairy Wish: Feb. 7, 2nd race, $609; Feb. 23, 2nd race, $588. Forfiftyfiverocket: Feb. 17, 8th race, $330. Let's Play Nine: Feb. 1, 7th race, $735; March 13, 4th race, $1,995. Little Miss Raelyn: March 7, 6th race, $2,394. Nine Martinis: March 1, 7th race, $1,653. Ortinola: Feb. 9, 4th race, $253; March 7, 1st race, $483. Pataz: Feb. 6, 8th race, $231. Supercross: Feb. 9, 6th race, $297; Feb. 29, 1st race, $363. Vee's Super Star: March 1, 8th race, $378): Country Life Farm and Spendthrift—$10,309.

TRITAP (Tappin Cat: March 14, 6th race, $945): Tritap Syndicate.

Maryland-bred champ Majestic Reason retired

Majestic Reason, 2019 Maryland-bred champion older female and winner of the Grade 3 Barbara Fritchie Stakes in February, has been retired and was bred to Irish War Cry in early April.

The 5-year-old mare campaigned for her breeders, Richard Golden of Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds and Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable. Based with trainer Graham Motion at Fair Hill Training Center, Majestic Reason primarily ran at Laurel Park where she won the 2018 Miss Disco Stakes, the 2019 Willa On the Move Stakes as well as the Fritchie.

The daughter of Majestic Warrior and the stakes-winning Not For Love mare Love's Reason finished third in her graded stakes debut last fall, the Gallant Bloom Handicap-G2 at Belmont Park, and placed in three other stakes throughout her 13-start career.

Majestic Reason held a record of 6-4-2 and only finished worse than third once, when she was fifth in the Pumpkin Pie at Aqueduct last November. Her career earnings total $462,998.

Following her victory in the Barbara Fritchie, the final race of her career, Motion said, "I know I say it a lot, but she really is one of our favorites. She's just a hard-knocking filly."

Two Maryland-breds sell for six figures at OBS

The only 2-year-old sale before the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to the national sales calendar was conducted by the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company, held March 17-18 in Ocala, Fla. Of the seven Maryland-breds offered, five sold for a combined $442,500.

Two brought six figures. The top price was a colt by The Factor out of Idle Talk consigned by GOP Racing Stable and purchased by Wesley Ward for $165,000. He shared the fastest eighth-mile time of :09.80 at the under tack show.

Bred by Mary Eppler Racing Stable and A. Leonard Pineau, the gray/roan colt is from the family of champion Monomoy Girl and 2019 graded stakes-winning 3-year-old Mr. Monomoy, winner of the Risen Star Stakes-G2 at Fair Grounds the month before the sale.

The colt was an RNA at the 2018 Keeneland November sale and sold as a yearling at Ocala for $17,000.

Eppler trained his dam Idle Talk over five seasons, during which the daughter of Olmodavor won 12 times, including Pimlico's Dahlia Stakes, and was second in the Edward P. Evans All Along Stakes-G3 at Colonial Downs.

The second highest-priced Maryland-bred was a filly by More Than Ready purchased for $160,000 by Narvick International from the consignment of Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), Agent. Bred by Larry Johnson, she is out of the stakes-placed Songandaprayer mare Allwewantforxmas, a half-sister to graded stakes-winning turf horse Hard Enough. The dark bay filly's second dam is stakes winner Grecian Wings. At the under tack show, she posted a quarter in :20.80, tied for the third-fastest time.

Maryland Foal Report

ANDIEMAC, by Outflanker, b.c., March 21, by Ride On Curlin. Thomas J. Rooney. Mare to Force the Pass.

ANYDAYISMYDAY, by Afleet Alex, b.f., March 12, by Good Magic. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Hard Spun.

APLEASANTNIGHT, by Pleasant Tap, b.f., March 28, by Friesan Fire. Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen.

BALTIMORE STREET, by Baltimore Bob, b.c., March 28, by Barbados. Robert Gerczak.

CARAMORE, by Purge, b.f., March 6, by Great Notion. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Golden Lad.

CHARM CITY, by City Zip, ch.f., Feb. 21, by Imagining. Ronald H. Parker. Mare to Bourbon Courage.

CHESTNUT GROVE, by Street Cry (Ire), dk.b./br.f., March 15, by Collected. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Arrogate.

CLEVER ME, by Not For Love, b.f., Feb. 2, by Blofeld. Amy H. Daney Bloodstock. Mare to Golden Lad.

DEEDS NOT WORDS, by Street Sense, b.f., Feb. 29, by Protonico. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to First Mondays.

DIAMOND BABY, by Southern Image, b.c., March 5, by Runhappy. Jagger Inc. Mare to Warrior's Reward.

DICEY D J, by Milwaukee Brew, b.f., Feb. 22, by Palace. Thornmar. Mare to Irish War Cry.

DIVINE PLAN, by Holy Bull, b.f., March 10, by Paynter. Big Lick Farm.

ENTERPRISE VALUE, by Bellamy Road, ch.f., March 21, by Redeemed. Leaf Stable.

FINGERPAINT, by Union Rags, ch.f., April 10, by Hoppertunity. Designated Hitters Racing.

FLIP THE SWITCH, by Discreet Cat, dk.b./br.f., March 21, by Tapizar. David W. Palmer.

HEAVENLY MOON, by Mojave Moon, b.c., March 29, by Great Notion. Fred Greene Jr., Deborah Greene and Hamilton Smith.

HER BIG MOMENT, by Awesome Again, b.c., March 24, by Midnight Storm. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Outwork.

IRISH ACCESS, by Blame, b.f., March 11, by Mosler. Timothy L. Keefe and M.O.M. Stable. Mare to The Factor.

IT'S MY BUSINESS, by Street Boss, blk.f., March 19, by Imagining. Tori Martinez-deVries.

KISS IN THE FOREST, by Forest Wildcat, b.f., March 4, by Friesan Fire. Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen.

LUCY BOO, by Rock Slide, ch.c., March 20, by Munnings. Thomas J. Rooney. Mare to Barbados.

MISS CLAIRTON (GB), by Marju, dk.b./br.c., March 6, by Point of Entry. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Imagining.

MY AUNT DIANNE, by Norquestor, b.f., Feb. 28, by Barbados. James B. Steele Jr.

NEW CANAAN, by Courageous Cat, dk.b./br.c., March 25, by Baltimore Bob. Robert Gerczak. Mare to Baltimore Bob.

OFFICER BUNS, by Officer, b.c., March 9, by Congrats. Nancy Lee Farms.

PREYING MANTIS, by Medaglia d'Oro, b.c., March 16, by Speightster. Amy H. Daney Bloodstock. Mare to Cupid.

QUIET RUN, by Northern Afleet, b.f., March 24, by Barbados. Shamrock Farm.

RICHETTA, by Polish Numbers, b.c., March 18, by Cross Traffic. Glenangus Farm. Mare to Collected.

ROSE'S LAST, by Toccet, gr/ro.f., March 19, by Great Notion. Jerome C. Burdick.

ROSIE O' DARLIN, by Wiseman's Ferry, ch.c., March 23, by Madefromlucky. David Krasnoff. Mare to Golden Lad.

RUBY PUMPS, by Finality, ch.c., March 5, by Dialed In. Jagger Inc. and Pete Mattson.

SATIRE, by Wildcat Heir, b.c., March 5, by Baltimore Bob. Bob Gerczak. Mare to Baltimore Bob.

SILVERTONGUEDIVA, by Arch, ch.c., March 25, by Lea. Barak Farm. Mare to Barbados.

SISTER PAT, by Munnings, dk.b./br.c., March 12, by No Never No More. Designated Hitters Racing LLC.

SMART POLICY, by Smart Strike, b.c., March 26, by Maclean's

Fingerpaint displays her affection for her first foal, a daughter of Hoppertunity bred by Designated Hitters Racing and born April 10.

Chris Brown (2)

Stolen Dance, a winner of $321,548, and her Hoppertunity colt, foaled March 15 at Willowdale Farm.

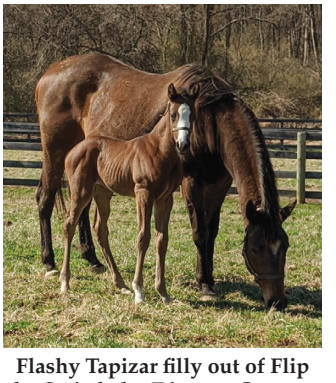
Leslie Gerard

Madefromlucky colt is out of David Krasnoff's mare Rosie o' Darlin (by Wiseman's Ferry).

Drew Komlo

The Stormy Atlantic mare Stormy Mistress and her colt by Great Notion enjoy a spring day.

Filly by Redeemed bred by Leaf Stable and foaled at Willowdale is the first foal for the winning Bellamy Road mare Enterprise Value.



Flashy Tapizar filly out of Flip the Switch, by Discreet Cat, was bred by David Palmer.

Erin Harrison (3)

Great Notion colt out of stakes-placed Heavenly Moon is a half-brother to stakes-placed $391,356-earner Moon Virginia.

Music. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Goldencents.

STOLEN DANCE, by Broken Vow, b.c., March 15, by Hoppertunity. Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Bonsal Jr.

STORMY MISTRESS, by Stormy Atlantic, b.c., March 11, by Great Notion. Komlo LLC.

SUNDAY IN MALIBU, by Malibu Moon, ch.f., Feb. 24, by Bourbon Courage. Ronald Harris Parker. Mare to Holy Boss.

TERRA AQUA, by Cowboy Cal, ch.c., March 30, by Bourbon Courage. Quantum Racing LLC and Virginia Wright.

TOPAZIO, by More Than Ready, b.c., Feb. 24, by Sharp Azteca. Thornmar. Mare to Irish War Cry.

Foals Wanted

Send your foal reports and photographs of 2020 foals for inclusion on the Maryland Horse Breeders Association website and *The Maryland Horse* newsletter.

Email information to cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com.

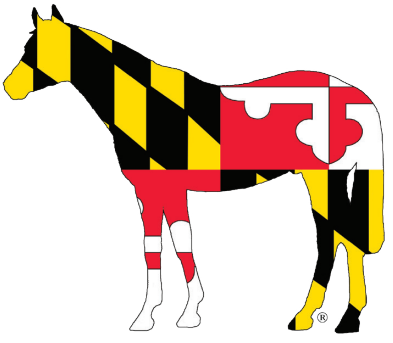
Submissions may also be made on the MHBA website at MarylandThoroughbred.com/foalreport.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2020

(through April 3)

1.	Field Pass	$172,900	
2.	Majestic Reason	150,000	
3.	Alwaysmining	115,000	
4.	Plata O Plomo	105,000	
5.	Naughty Thoughts	86,279	
6.	Artful Splatter	78,822	
7.	Pitching Ari	62,244	
8.	McKale	59,400	
9.	Stroll Smokin	58,227	
10.	My Friends Beer	55,919	
11.	Easy River	$55,515	
12.	Knicks Go	52,800	
13.	Little Miss Raelyn	52,472	
14.	Kiss the Girl	51,846	
15.	Galerio	51,708	
16.	John Jones	49,827	
17.	Toy	49,569	
18.	She'smysunshine	47,122	
19.	Seany P.	44,679	
20.	Three Hawk	43,992	

Maryland Flag Horse Logo Wear



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Call the MHBA office
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Maryland's leading sires

Supplied by The Jockey Club Information Services, these statistics compiled April 3 are for stallions who currently stand or completed their careers in Maryland. Lifetime earnings for stallions with at least one starter in 2020. † denotes freshman sire.

Earnings in 2020

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Friesan Fire	46	115	12	15	$415,273
Great Notion	34	70	14	14	390,692
Bandbox	20	40	9	10	286,445
Super Ninety Nine	25	59	7	8	277,278
Golden Lad	18	34	3	4	236,877
Not For Love	21	62	6	9	225,772
Street Magician	21	55	7	8	185,238
Bourbon Courage	15	28	4	5	180,832
Seville (Ger)	24	59	3	5	148,774
Petionville	15	39	3	4	114,854
Outflanker	13	36	4	5	111,996
Imagining	17	35	1	1	107,410
Orientate	23	57	2	2	104,840
Nicanor	12	32	2	4	93,577
Redeemed	18	45	3	3	80,396
Tritap	10	20	1	1	80,037
Louis Quatorze	7	18	2	2	71,640

Earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love	845	19,446	686	2,896	$80,775,667
Orientate	684	13,929	533	2,033	47,906,871
Petionville	665	14,361	519	1,935	45,468,688
Louis Quatorze	777	14,972	575	1,958	38,205,937
Lion Hearted	507	9,761	389	1,333	30,103,521
Outflanker	444	9,501	332	1,337	29,593,728
Great Notion	265	4,156	215	709	22,015,205
Rock Slide	222	3,925	151	440	11,457,469
Friesan Fire	173	2,811	127	363	11,415,140
Street Magician	111	1,778	80	228	6,904,099
Cherokee's Boy	75	1,538	49	150	4,100,508
Redeemed	63	883	38	92	3,102,452
Showing Up	88	1,168	55	135	2,572,960
Super Ninety Nine	44	344	25	58	1,650,146
Bandbox	36	230	27	42	1,452,258
Seville (Ger)	92	805	35	60	1,410,502
Tritap	29	272	18	39	1,408,605
Narrative (Ire)	85	1,281	46	135	1,204,358
Buffum	15	157	12	35	936,119
Golden Lad	24	102	11	19	903,348

2-year-old earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love	365	1,164	139	186	$6,956,746
Orientate	367	1,155	141	183	5,333,131
Petionville	383	1,184	123	152	4,866,671
Louis Quatorze	338	1,047	104	130	3,509,023
Outflanker	229	924	94	125	3,466,391
Lion Hearted	224	733	81	111	3,096,416
Great Notion	97	295	41	57	2,214,757
Friesan Fire	102	317	34	38	1,732,327
Rock Slide	94	299	24	35	1,075,420
Street Magician	53	207	18	22	1,035,824
Golden Lad	18	68	10	15	666,471
Cherokee's Boy	24	105	8	13	641,664
Tritap	19	79	10	17	619,644
Super Ninety Nine	28	108	13	18	576,228
Bourbon Courage	22	76	8	10	567,242
Bandbox	19	60	8	10	417,279
Imagining	17	73	5	6	416,937
Showing Up	35	122	9	12	385,211
Redeemed	27	82	8	9	377,735
Buffum	10	44	9	13	341,061

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

May 2020

President's message

Let's all extend our congratulations to the members of the North Carolina Thoroughbred Association whose horses made it into the winner's circle during this reporting period: Denise Walsh, Frank Coniglio and James Jones. I apologize if I missed someone. My file with the latest racing data was lost or corrupted. My research to gather the most recent information probably lacked some thoroughness for a complete and accurate account.

As we negotiate our lives around this invading pestilence, the recognition and gratitude displayed toward the healthcare workers, retail workers and other essential providers is heartwarming and lifting. The racehorse industry has our own league of human superstars who largely go unrecognized by the mainstream – the backstretch workers. They are showing up despite the danger to themselves and their families. To them I say, "Thank you."

/Rebecca Montaldo

Racing Recap

Navy Armed Guard winning at Tampa Bay Downs Feb. 26. Photo by SV Photography

Navy Armed Guard (g., 2015, Midshipman—Black Java, by Pine Bluff) won an allowance/optional claiming race (not in for a tag) at Tampa Bay on a rainy, Feb. 26. The blinkered 5-year-old gelding went off the favorite in the fifth race on the card, at 1 mile and 40 yards over a wet fast track, and completed the distance in 1:40.34. The Kentucky-bred, owned by Frank Coniglio and his partners, was slightly bumped at the start, raced on the inside off the pace, started advancing on the far turn, went outside his foe, dueled for the lead and kicked clear to win by 5¼ lengths! This was his second win in his first three starts of the year!

Afleet Roger (g., 2016, Afleet Alex—Rinella Bay by Roman Ruler) dominated at Fair Grounds March 14, going a mile and 70 yards over a fast track in 1:43.90. Sent out in the first race of the day, with blinkers on, he broke out at the start, was eased back by the first turn, rated off the pace in the two path, and angled into the three path on the far turn. He took control of the race at the quarter pole and drew clear with a couple light taps with the left-handed whip in the final furlong to win by 11¼ lengths as the 1-2 favorite. The 4-year-old, bred in Kentucky by Denise Walsh - Never Better Stables, was claimed away from his breeder in this race.

Let's Play Nine (g., 2016, Super Ninety Nine—Arch Enemy, by Arch) won the fourth race at Laurel Park March 13, a 7-furlong allowance. Wearing blinkers, the 4-year-old Maryland-bred gelding owned by James Jones in partnership with Country Life Farm, broke first, showed early speed inside and was taken back to rate halfway down the backstretch. Angled out two-wide to regain the lead around the final turn, he drew clear nearing the eighth pole, drifted out under left-handed urging but hung on to win by a nose, finishing in 1:24.09 on a fast dirt track. In four lifetime starts he has three wins and a second!

Let's Play Nine (inside with blinkers) won his third race in four starts, an allowance at Laurel Park, in an exciting finish March 13. Photo by Jim McCue

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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Joanne Dew, *secretary*
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in Thoroughbred Industry
(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

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☐Hunter/Jumper	☐Eventing	☐Dressage	☐Pleasure	☐Other_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **N.C.T.A.**
MAIL WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Rebecca Montaldo, NCTA, P.O. Box 76., Fayetteville NC 28302**

Hitting the Board February 25—March 18

26-Feb	Navy Armed Guard	Tampa Bay Downs	Owned by Frank Coniglio with partners	**WINNER!**
28-Feb	Rydell	Penn National	Bred by Michael Stone	2nd
28-Feb	Henry Standingbear	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	3rd
7-Mar	Keota	Gulfstream Park - $75,000 Captiva Island Stakes	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
13-Mar	Let's Play Nine	Laurel Park	Owned by James Jones In Partnership	**WINNER!**
14-Mar	Afleet Roger	Fair Grounds	Bred & owned by Denise Walsh - Never Better Stables	**WINNER!**
14-Mar	Bella Aurora	Laurel Park $100,000 Beyond the Wire S.	Owned by James Jones In Partnership	3rd
15-Mar	Drip Brew	Oaklawn Park	Bred by Frank Batten	2nd
18-Mar	Commander's Intent	Tampa Bay Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd

Ohio THOROUGHBRED
ESTABLISHED 1958
Breeders & Owners

May 2020

OHIO RIDING THE WAVE WITH ALL THE OTHER STATES

This is being written weeks before the magazine is published, so to tell you about the current state of racing in Ohio is quite impossible. We are all sharing the common bond of this pandemic and hopefully by the time you are reading this the dire situation will be beginning to wane. Ohio's Governor Mike DeWine has ordered all casino/racino facilities to be closed at this point. The state's Racing Commission is doing their best to assure the safety and well being of the horses and those that work with them at the tracks. All entities and organizations involved in the sport are seeking smooth transitions through the weeks ahead to achieve this goal.

The breeding industry is not being shuttered in the state. This storm shall pass, and we need to ensure a strong industry remains in place for the years ahead. We do not know how current cancellations at the track will impact the state's stakes program and will have to just be patient to see what the future holds.

As you can see in the accompanying letter, we are moving forward on our annual sale and hope you will participate – you do not have to have an Ohio-bred to be entered in the sale. With no current stakes results to report on, we thought we'd go through our files and reflect on some events that have created images of Ohio racing over the years.

Ohio THOROUGHBRED
ESTABLISHED 1958
Breeders & Owners

Fellow Ohio TB Breeders,

I am reaching out to you as sale committee chairman for the 2020 Ohio Thoroughbred Sale. This letter is to inform you of our plans/changes and to ask for your participation.

Our committee's mission is to increase awareness and promotion of Ohio Thoroughbreds. We are committed to improving our statewide sale here in Ohio. Our goal is to support breeders by offering a quality venue to sell their horses and provide quality consignments to owners/trainers. The Auction is open to Weanlings, Yearlings, 2 yr. olds, and Broodmares. The sale is not exclusive to horses bred in Ohio.

As a committee, we have made many changes to improve our sale. We are moving the sale to a more central location, the Delaware County Fairgrounds. The facility is just north of Columbus, and already hosts numerous equine sales events. We believe this will be more convenient for all Ohio Breeders. Our auction will be conducted by RES Auctioneers. They are a well-established sales firm, with excellent equine sales experience. RES Owners/Auctioneers Joseph Mast and Andy White have extensive sales experience in Kentucky Thoroughbred sales.

Our OTBO Auction will not conflict with any Ohio Racing or Kentucky sale and will be held on Oct 15th at 2:30pm. Horses will be able to ship in on Oct 14th for preview. Plans are in the works to have a "Sales Graduate Race," or bonus on existing stakes race for sale graduates. All yearlings will have a scope exam upon arrival at the sale grounds with available results for review. The cost of the scope is included in the yearling consignment fee. Radiographic evaluations of the consignments will be provided by Dr. Scott Shell at the sale upon request of interested parties and will be the financial responsibility of the potential buyer. Broodmares consigned must be under the age of 18 yrs., and have a veterinarian's report of confirmation of pregnancy or open within 1 week of the sale date.

A new component to our sale is our desire to visit your farm and see your potential consignments. We need your help in organizing this. Please fill out the enclosed form and mail back to us with the best phone number/email to reach you. We look forward to hearing from you, and working together for a successful sale.

Sincerely,

Daryl Duncan, OTBO Sales Committee Chairman 740-502-4549

FIRST FOALS OF MILLIONAIRE OHIO CHAMPION RIVERS RUN DEEP HITTING THE GROUND

Rivers Run Deep colt, out of Doll Dreams, by Henny Hughes, at Poplar Creek. Bred by Robin Murphy, he was born Feb. 29.

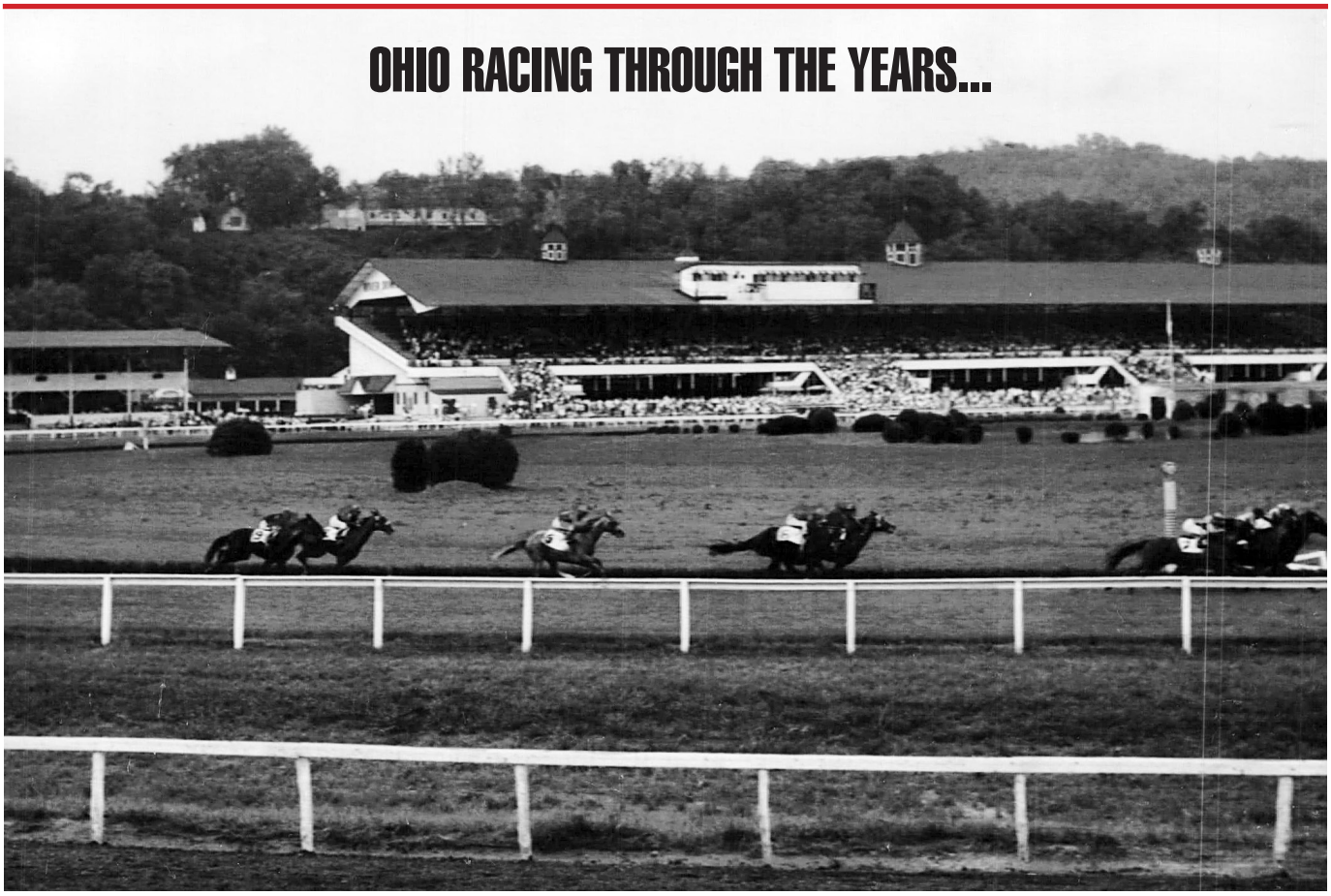
First-time Ohio stallion Rivers Run Deep has his first group of foals on the ground in 2020. From all reports from the owners of these foals, they are very pleased with what they are seeing. Rivers Run Deep was an Ohio-bred himself and the fastest horse in Ohio for four consecutive years according to the Ohio Sprint Champion trophies that adorn the mantle of owners James and Ywachetta Driver.

With the characteristics of soundness and consistency, he amassed $1,187,945 and recorded 14 stakes victories. He recorded an impressive 25 triple-digit speed numbers, while winning on dirt and turf at six different tracks while setting two track records.

Standing at 16.2 hands, Rivers Run Deep was an imposing individual at the races. The well-muscled son of Ready's Image out of the Prospector's Music mare Music Miss has a personality very much the opposite of his headstrong performances at the races. "He is really a nice horse and easy to handle," said Robin Murphy, who operates Poplar Creek Horse Center in Bethel. "I wasn't sure what to expect after watching his explosive performances in person, but it turned out he is very kind. He took to breeding right away and I think it was his intelligence that helped keep him sound while racing through the age of 7."

The grandson of sensational sire More Than Ready hails from a strong female family and he is a half-sibling to four stakes-placed runners. Under his stakes-placed second dam there are no less than four stakes horses, most notable is multiple stakes winner and graded stakes-placed Altissimo, 2018 Ohio Horse of the Year. Altissimo is a earner of $781,638 and is scheduled to return to the races this season.

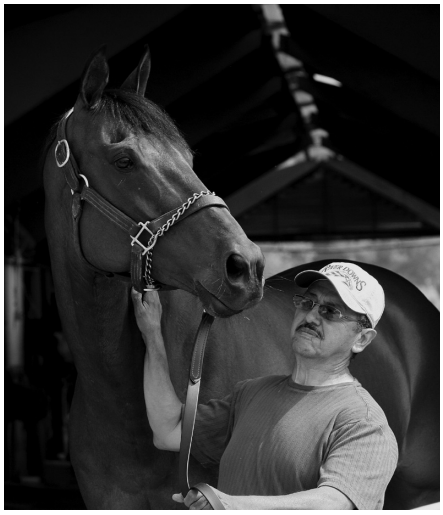
OHIO RACING THROUGH THE YEARS...



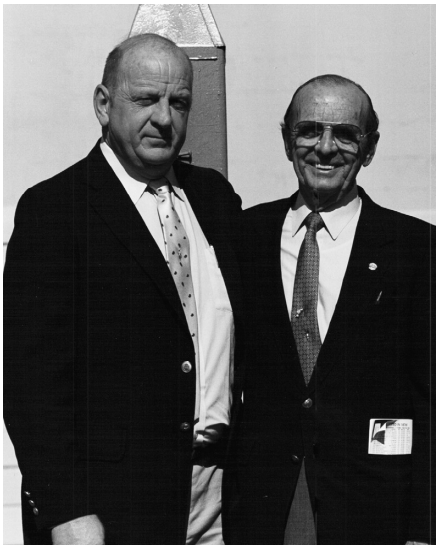
River Downs first raced on their turf course in 1957. Laffitt Pincay Jr. was once quoted, "That is the best turf course I ever raced over."

OHIO RACING THROUGH THE YEARS...

Arctic Bright View stood at O.T.B.O. Board member Ed Crothers' Cedar Brook Farm in West Union. He went on to star as "Silver" in the 2013 movie *The Lone Ranger*.



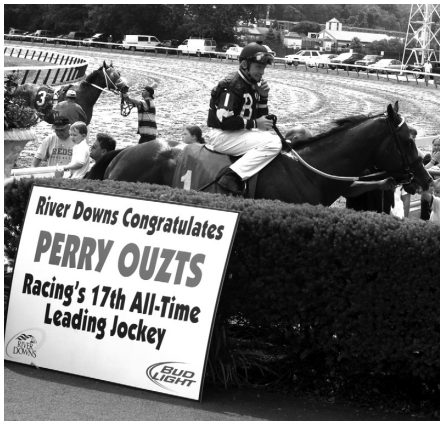
Catlaunch was the Ohio Horse of the Year in 2010-2011. Pictured here with trainer Ivan Vazquez who carefully won stakes with him from the ages of 5-12. He campaigned a amazing 108 starts for a record of 40-22-15 for earnings of $1,122,309.



Hall of Fame trainers Jack Van Berg and Woody Stephens at Thistledown for the 1979 Ohio Derby. Stephens won the race with Smarten, ridden by Ohio native Sam Maple.

Ben's Reflection was Ohio Champion Sprinter 2003-2005. He was never bothered in his stall as he had his own "Guard Rooster." He would sleep in his stall at night, too.

The last match race in Ohio took place on June 9, 2007. Six-time NFL Pro Bowl player Chad Johnson aka Chad Ochocinco defeated jockey Patricia Cooksey and Such a Roar at River Downs in a race for charity. The event aired on ESPN. Photo: Emily Lang



Back in 2012 Perry Ouzts became racing's 17th leading rider. Returning for the races in 2020 the ageless wonder is now the seventh leading jockey with 7,065 wins from 51,218 mounts.

The Ohio River, that annually would bring silt up to the turf course, also was a magnet for strong summer storms.

Thistledown outrider Nadine Habke makes a great catch of On the Clock, who was loose and running clockwise on Best of Ohio Day.

Father/son trailblazers Deshawn Parker and his father Darrell Parker. The Parkers are native Cincinnatians with a lifelong dedication to racing. DeShawn was twice the leading rider in North America and is the all-time winningest Afro-American jockey. Darrell was the country's first black state racing official.

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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

May 2020
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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Steeling for a PA-Bred champion

by Emily Shields

Darryl Myers has been on quite the roller coaster in his journey to establish his own breeding business.

There was the time he didn't own mares but was in the claiming game, and the time he wasn't in the sport at all but participated in drag racing. Now he is working towards one overarching goal: to produce above average quality horses in Pennsylvania.

Although Myers always liked horses, a past wife didn't want him involved in the racing game. "She just didn't want anything to do with them," he explained, "so I drag raced instead." After 22 years of successfully doing just that, Myers traded both the wife and the hobby.

"I've been in racing for the last seven years," said the York County farm owner. He claimed some runners and campaigned them for a while, then went into buying young horses at auction and sent them to Florida to be broken. "I did pretty well with that," he said.

One of the horses Myers had was Guns of Steel, a PA-Bred son of First Defence out of the Grand Slam mare Grand Angel. The $30,000 purchase broke his maiden at Penn National second out on Aug. 6, 2014, and has since gone on to earn $437,720. Although the 8-year-old gelding has long since been claimed away, he is still racing in both Pennsylvania and New York.

Myers, who owns the structural steel company Myers Steel Works, started to feel sour towards racing. He had won 20 of 93 starts and campaigned the likes of Ontario-bred Philippian, a 12-time winner, and winners Brokencall and Genevieve's Breeze, but knew that he wanted to pursue breeding.

"I was tapering off the racing deal," he said. "I wasn't too fond of some trainers and decided to go in a different direction."

That's where Myers's new wife, Jill, came in. "When I met her, she had a bunch of riding horses, eight or nine of them," he explained. "I was into the racing and she was into the riding. I rode some but not a whole lot. She thought she'd like a farm, so we had one that wasn't big enough, only six acres. But it had a brand new house on it."

Despite the new accommodations, the property wasn't quite right, so Myers started the search for a bigger piece of land. He finally found an older, 100-acre cow farm that was first established in 1935, and created his Stone Jug Ranch in 2018. The older couple that had been maintaining the ranch still live there; one of them was born on the farm decades ago.

Myers *continued from page 1*

The farm is a constant work in progress, with a new sand pen built in early March. "We stripped everything," he said. "There was just one small barn. We are in the middle of building a two-story hay barn. We redid every single fence line. There's an above average barn with fancy living quarters upstairs. You can control the temperature in the barn. It's actually really beautiful, we like to stay there every once in a while."

Although the 30 head of registered Scottish Highland cattle make up most of the residents on the farm, the three Thoroughbred broodmares are another attraction. "I'm trying to buy above average mares for Pennsylvania," Myers said. "I've never done the foaling before, so I'm trying to get my feet wet."

The first of the three mares is 12-year-old Dillingham, a winning daughter of Pleasant Tap. She is the dam of three winners from three to race, including Miss Dillingham, who has won both of her 2020 starts so far. Dillingham foaled a Warrior's Reward colt in early March.

The next mare is 7-year-old Pharoah's Princess, by Pioneerof the Nile. The winning mare was an $80,000 purchase at last November's Keeneland sale in foal to Tiznow, and is due soon after producing a Connect colt last year. The mare's first foal, a colt by More Than Ready, sold as a weanling at Keeneland for $145,000 in 2018. Myers is also expecting a Speightster foal later this year from his third mare.

"My goal is to get to eight or 10 broodmares," Myers said. "I've got some really nice stock right now, and we've been working on the farm for two years."

Myers no longer has horses on the track, but he had as many as 11 at one time before. "I backed out because I changed my plans and what I wanted to do," he said simply. "I want to develop my own breeding program and get it rolling."

Myers has ambitious goals. "We've got a really nice set up, and did everything the best we could," he said. "We went first class on everything. I'm spending some good money on mares and going after something a little higher end than your average horse," he said. Myers plans to sell some of his homebred stock as either weanlings or yearlings at the Keeneland sales, but is open to keeping some to race.

"My biggest goal is to find the best one I can get for the Kentucky Derby one day," he added. "But then again, that's everyone's goal."

A few words from the Executive Secretary

First, let me begin by saying that the PHBA hopes that you and your families remain healthy during this trying time. Hopefully by the time you receive this month's edition we will have been able to move on with our lives to some extent.

Breeding season is well on its way and our breeding sheds are still open! If you haven't booked your mare yet don't miss the opportunity. Go to pabred.com and take a look at our Stallion and Boarding Farm Directory. It's not too late to take part in the best breeding program in the country!

This year's Iroquois Banquet is scheduled to be held at the Mendenhall Inn on Friday, May 29. By now you should have received an email with an update on the status of the ceremony. If you have not, please check our website for information or call our office at 610.444.1050.

The first two of our 2020 stakes races, the Page McKenney Handicap and the Unique Bella Stakes, scheduled for April 25 at Parx, have been pushed back due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The schedule will be redone when we have a better grasp on the time period available. Keep an eye on our social media accounts and website for updates.

Thank you for being a part of our program and please stay safe!

2020 Pennsylvania-Bred Stakes Schedule

PARX	Saturday April 25	~~$100,000 Page McKenney Handicap~~ ~~3 & up, 7 furlongs~~ POSTPONED	~~$100,000 Unique Bella Stakes~~ ~~3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 furlongs~~ POSTPONED
PENN NATIONAL	Saturday May 30	**$100,000 Danzig Stakes** 3YO, 6 furlongs **$100,000 Lyphard Stakes** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 New Start Stakes** 3YO fillies, 6 furlongs **$100,000 With Anticipation Stakes** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf
PARX	Saturday June 20	**$100,000 Crowd Pleaser Stakes** 3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 Power by Far Stakes** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 furlongs, turf
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	Monday July 6	**$100,000 Hard Spun Stakes** 3 & up, 1 mile	**$100,000 Princess of Sylmar Stakes** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mile
PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES	Saturday August 1 PARX	**$100,000 Banjo Picker Sprint Stakes** 3 & up, 6 furlongs **$100,000 Mrs. Penny Stakes** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles, turf **$100,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial Stakes** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs	**$100,000 Marshall Jenney Handicap** 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf **$100,000 Storm Cat Stakes** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles **$100,000 Jump Start Stakes PA-Sired, PA-Bred** 3 & up, 7 furlongs
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	Sunday August 30	**$100,000 Malvern Rose Stakes** 3YO fillies, 1 mile	
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	Monday September 14	**$100,000 Finest City Stakes** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
PARX	Saturday September 26	**$100,000 Alphabet Soup Handicap** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	Monday September 28	**$100,000 Mark McDermott Stakes** 2YO, 6 furlongs	
PENN NATIONAL	Wednesday November 25	**$100,000 Shamrock Rose Stakes** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
PARX	Saturday December 5	**$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes** 2YO, 7 furlongs	

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through February 29, 2020

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	70,577	70,577	A & J Racing Stable LLC	20,608	0	20,608
William J. Solomon VMD	33,344	17,114	50,458	Robert C. Roffey Jr.	20,108	0	20,108
Richard N. Miller	39,098	8,136	47,234	Barbara J. Geraghty	18,912	0	18,912
Fantasy Lane Stable Inc.	34,336	8,584	42,920	Roger Cettina	18,704	0	18,704
Glenn E. Brok LLC	23,866	15,010	38,876	Barlar LLC	14,527	3,458	17,985
Blackstone Farm LLC	38,846	0	38,846	John McCaslin	17,370	0	17,370
Thomas G. McClay	34,553	0	34,553	Daniel W. McConnell Sr.	17,000	0	17,000
Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	30,584	0	30,584	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	16,316	0	16,316
Patricia L. Chapman	24,906	4,960	29,866	Castle Rock Farm	15,293	0	15,293
Sylmar Farm Inc.	28,307	0	28,307	Wendy H. Mutnick	14,992	0	14,992
Donald L. Brown Jr.	20,582	4,871	25,453	Robin H. Perry	14,826	0	14,826
Stacy McMullin Machiz	21,509	0	21,509	Richard Molineaux	14,284	0	14,284

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	98	37,374	Wiseman's Ferry	Lainey Bug Stables LLC	4	5,152
El Padrino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	42	24,336	Smarty Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	31	4,960
Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	27	10,345	Messner	Donald L. Brown Jr.	4	4,871
Partner's Hero	Peter Giangiulio	14	9,405	Toccet	Castleton Lyons Inc.	3	4,676
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	14	9,099	Reflect Times (Jpn)	Flint W. Stites	10	4,016
Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	24	7,563	Silver Train	Henry R. Nothhaft	8	3,704
Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	3	6,240	E Dubai	Barlar LLC	8	3,458
Mad Flatter	Glenn E. Brok LLC	18	6,055	Any Given Saturday	William J. Solomon VMD	19	3,392
Petionville	Everest Stables Inc.	9	6,006	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	22	3,246
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	44	5,530	Winchill	Pewter Stable	8	2,660
Rimrod	George Strawbridge Jr.	6	5,502	Flashy Bull	James E. Hess	8	2,373
Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	11	5,208	Fairbanks	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	11	2,138

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Restricted	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Owner Bonus	Total
E T's Gypsy Woman *	Emperor Tiberius - Deona	Richard N. Miller	2	0	0	28,740	6,240	10,800	45,780
Wait for It *	Uptowncharlybrown - Kimberley Diamond	Fantasy Lane Stable Inc.	2	0	0	22,064	5,516	15,760	43,340
Wise Jude *	Wiseman's Ferry - Sweet as You Are	A & J Racing Stable LLC	2	0	0	20,608	5,152	14,720	40,480
Promised Storm *	El Padrino - Innovative	Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	3	0	0	22,352	5,588	11,280	39,220
Graves Island *	Petionville - Sherrie Belle	Robert C. Roffey Jr.	3	0	0	20,108	5,027	9,220	34,355
Mess'n Around *	Messner - She Is a Lioness	Donald L. Brown Jr.	1	0	0	16,464	4,116	11,760	32,340
Flashy Kyem *	Medallist - Flash Riot	Daniel W. McConnell Sr.	3	0	0	15,680	3,920	11,200	30,800
Sunday Inn *	El Padrino - Dynamist	Patricia L. Chapman	1	0	0	15,456	3,864	11,040	30,360
Lucky Hero *	Partner's Hero - Leigh's Last Power	Barbara J. Geraghty	2	0	0	18,912	4,728	6,480	30,120
Red Razzo *	Toccet - High Iron Lass	Roger Cettina	3	0	0	18,704	4,676	6,160	29,540
Late Breaking News *	Jump Start - Very Distinctive	Stacy McMullin Machiz	3	0	0	14,621	3,655	8,892	27,168
Miss Dillingham *	Jump Start - Dillingham	Thomas G. McClay	2	0	0	15,648	3,912	3,360	22,920
Peach Alley *	Jump Start - How Bout Tonight	Thomas G. McClay	3	0	0	11,564	2,891	8,260	22,715
Final Shot *	Talent Search - Last Shot	Wendy H. Mutnick	2	0	0	14,992	3,748	3,680	22,420
Cat Giumarello	Successful Appeal - Passionate Dancer	Andrew Simoff	2	0	0	8,736	0	12,480	21,216
Diagonal *	Rimrod - Pass the Salt	R H Breeding LLC	3	0	0	13,808	3,074	4,320	21,202
Her Divineness	Divine Park - Big Shot Baby	Big Shot Stable LLC	2	0	0	8,400	0	12,000	20,400
Dreams Untold	Smarty Jones - Shootforthestars	Patricia L. Chapman	1	0	0	9,450	0	10,800	20,250
Guatavita	Lemon Drop Kid - Scoop of Gold	Cornerstone Thoroughbreds LLC	1	0	0	9,450	0	10,800	20,250
Ying Yue *	Jump Start - Calamity Girl	DDS Stables LLC	2	0	0	11,098	2,774	4,624	18,496
Geebert *	Albert the Great - Gee Pari	Richard Molineaux	2	0	0	10,080	2,016	5,760	17,856
Sweet Magic Moment *	Well Spelled - Ashley's Moment	Godstone Farm LP	3	0	0	10,080	2,016	5,760	17,856
The Carlbrook Kid *	Flashy Bull - Cosmic Dance	John McCaslin	2	0	0	8,870	2,218	6,336	17,424
Color Force *	Albert the Great - Contemptuous	William J. Solomon VMD	3	0	0	10,757	2,477	4,128	17,362

*Denotes PA-sired

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

Racing Across the Nation

Historically, the period between mid-February and mid-March has had a smaller number of stakes winners who have gone through the breaking process on South Carolina farms and training centers. This held true again this year as four runners entered the winner's circle following stakes races between February 20 and March 20.

With Verve circled the field in the Hutcheson Stakes for 3-year-olds at Gulfstream Park Feb. 29 and came out on top in a blanket finish. The second longest shot on the board and last of six after the opening half mile, he swung to the outside and put in a determined rally in the stretch. The gelding learned his early lessons at Rentz Training Center, operated by Randy and Kala Rentz.

On the same card, Mr Freeze stalked the leaders the opening half mile in the Gulfstream Park Mile Stakes-G2. He launched his bid in the second turn, took command in the stretch and hit the wire 3 lengths in front. Mr Freeze is a graduate of Franklin "Goree" Smith's program at the Elloree Training Center. He now has three graded stakes wins in a dozen starts.

Arrifina, the 3-5 favorite in the Nellie Morse Stakes at Laurel Park March 14, had her fans holding their breath down the stretch. She had only one beat for the opening half mile, was four-wide at the top of the stretch, caught the leader at the eighth pole and in a duel to the finish line to prevail by a nose. This 4-year-old filly came through Donna Freyer's breaking program at her Custom Care Equine facility in Camden.

Sally's Curlin notched her fifth career win in 11 starts, and second in a graded stakes, when capturing the Grade 3 Hurricane Bertie at Gulfstream Park March 14. Also a graduate of "Goree" Smith's program, Sally's Curlin encountered trouble coming out of the gate and trailed the leader by over 14 lengths early on. It took a half mile before she shifted gears. Sally's Curlin came eight-wide into the stretch and would not be denied, drawing clear late and crossing the finish line 2¾ lengths in front. She was much the best.

Aiken Trials provide ray of sunshine

The last sporting event that took place in Aiken (and possibly all of South Carolina) before the coronavirus shutdown was the Aiken Trials held March 14. Under a beautiful blue sky and comfortable temperatures, five Thoroughbred trials took place, along with several pony races. The 2-year-olds covered a quarter mile while the older horses ran 4½ furlongs.

The first trial, The Von Stade Trophy for 2-year-old fillies, was captured by a daughter of Flashback owned by Terry Hutto, trained by Randy Rentz and ridden by Hugo Melgar. This is the first time Rentz Training Center has participated in the Aiken Trials.

The second trial, The Gaver Trophy - Dr. Rebekah Brady Memorial Trophy, for 2-year-old colts or fillies, saw a daughter of Laoban cross the finish line first. Listed as the owner is Brody Durr, and the filly is trained by his father, Travis. Rakeem Pauling rode.

In the third trial, The Coward Trophy (for 3-year-old maiden fillies), Debby McCutchen-owned Beach House proved best and is trained by Debby's son Jason. Beach House is a 4-year-old daughter of Animal Kingdom. Lamonte Smalls had the ride.

Tote Board, a 3-year-old daughter of Big Brown, won The City of Aiken Trophy - Gus Schickendanz Memorial Trophy (3 & up winners). Travis Durr and Jason McCutchen are listed as owners. McCutchen tightened the girth and Smalls had his second winner.

The final trial, The Iselin Hall of Fame Trophy (3 & up, maiden colts and geldings), went to the Lemon Creek Farm-owned 3-year-old gelding Calibogee, trained by Wes Carter. Smalls completed his hat trick.

The Von Stade Trophy was captured by Terry Hutto's Flashback filly. Pony races added a special element while providing great opportunity for future jockeys.

Regina Welsh and Wendy Collins-Gutfarb coordinated several pony races. These races help introduce a younger generation to our wonderful sport.

Gus Schickedanz, who passed away earlier this year, was recognized as the third inductee into the Aiken Training Track's Ambassador's Club, joining Cot Campbell and Bill Simpson.

South Carolina Active at OBS Auction

The juvenile sales season began on the Ocala Breeders' Sales grounds March 17-18. Kip Elser's Kirkwood Stables, Cary Frommer and Marcus and Crystal Ryan's Mason Springs operations sold 2-year-olds they have been developing into racehorses during the winter months.

The Ryans, who call Aiken home, were the consignors for a Not This Time filly who sold for $140,000. Kirkwood Stables, located in Camden, consigned a Vancouver (Aus) filly and a Wicked Strong colt who together brought $150,000. Cary Frommer, who also calls Aiken home, sold a Tapizar colt for $125,000.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the dates for future sales are in question. Due to the nature of our industry, sales companies will hold their auctions once restrictions are lifted–sooner rather than later–we hope.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Muad'dib	Shuler Stables	3/21/20	Charles Town	Allowance
Kitten's Cat	Webb Carroll Training Center	3/19/20	Turfway Park	Optional Claiming
Jeffnjohn'sthundr	Kirkwood Stables	3/15/20	Golden Gate	Maiden special weight
M G Warrior	Webb Carroll Training Center	3/15/20	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
ARRIFANA	Custom Care - Donna Freyer	3/14/20	Laurel Park	Nellie Morse S
Out of Cents	Shuler Stables	3/14/20	Charles Town	Allowance
SALLY'S CURLIN	Elloree Training Center	3/14/20	Gulfstream Park	Hurricane Bertie S-G3
Raging Blaze	Rentz Training Center	3/13/20	Laurel Park	Starter allowance
Amelia Bedelia	Shuler Stables	3/11/20	Charles Town	Allowance
Another Time	Webb Carroll Training Center	3/11/20	Tampa Bay Downs	Allowance
Long Blade	Elloree Training Center	3/11/20	Tampa Bay Downs	Optional Claiming
Make the Rules	Aiken - Cary Frommer	3/10/20	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Logical Myth	Elloree Training Center	3/7/20	Fair Grounds	Starter allowance
Lunar Prize	Rentz Training Center	3/7/20	Penn National	Maiden special weight
Lutocomo	Webb Carroll Training Center	3/7/20	Parx Racing	Maiden special weight
Aife	Elloree Training Center	3/5/20	Fair Grounds	Optional Claiming
Strong Breeze	Kirkwood Stables	3/4/20	Penn National	Allowance
Makingcents	Webb Carroll Training Center	3/1/20	Aqueduct	Maiden special weight
Dance Rhythms	Elloree Training Center	2/29/20	Fair Grounds	Optional Claiming
MR FREEZE	Elloree Training Center	2/29/20	Gulfstream Park	Gulfstream Park Mile S-G2
WITH VERVE	Rentz Training Center	2/29/20	Gulfstream Park	Hutcheson S
Muad'dib	Shuler Stables	2/28/20	Charles Town	Allowance
Cubic Sound	Shuler Stables	2/27/20	Charles Town	Maiden special weight
Rockin Ready	Kirkwood Stables	2/27/20	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
V. I. P. Code	Elloree Training Center	2/24/20	Parx Racing	Starter allowance
Jade d'Oro	Webb Carroll Training Center	2/21/20	Sam Houston	Maiden special weight
Toy	Aiken - Cary Frommer	2/21/20	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Flat Awesome Jenny	Elloree Training Center	2/20/20	Gulfstream Park	Allowance

VIRGINIA

Make plans to attend the annual Virginia Breeders Awards Ceremony Friday June 19 at Great Meadow, the evening before the rescheduled Virginia Gold Cup Races on June 20. Details will be at www.vabred.org. Here are the award winners in Virginia-Bred/Sired and Certified horse categories, along with the top trainer and breeder.

1

2019 Horse of the Year/Older Dirt Male - Mr. Buff. The 6-year-old Virginia-Sired gelding, who won five black-type stakes last year on the NYRA circuit, is a New York-bred by Friend or Foe who stands at Smallwood Farm in Crozet. Owned and bred by long time New York breeders, Chester and Mary Broman, Mr. Buff won the Jazil, Saginaw, Evan Shipman and Alex Robb Stakes along with the Empire Classic Handicap. He also competed in a pair of Grade I's --- the Clark Stakes at Churchill and the Woodward at Saratoga --- and bankrolled $455,750 for the year. The John Kimmel trainee is already 2-for-2 in 2020 and with a February 22 win in the Haynesfield Stakes, saw his earnings soar to $1,051,536. Mr. Buff is out of Speightful Affair by Speightstown. While competing, his sire Friend Or Foe earned a title as champion New York-bred 3-year-old colt and ran four triple digit Beyer Speed Figures.

2019 Virginia Certified Filly - Dyna Passer. The Kentucky-bred filly, owned/bred by Woodslane Farm in The Plains, bankrolled $185,810 last year. As a 3-year-old, Dyna Passer won a maiden special weight at Belmont in May, was fifth in the Grade I Belmont Oaks Invitational Stakes in July and finished third in the Jockey Club Oaks Invitational Stakes (black type) in September.

2019 Virginia-Certified Male - So Street. The Maryland-bred gelding made 7 starts in 2019 and earned $158,933 in purse monies. The now 3-year-old son of Street Magician captured an allowance race at Colonial Downs, a waiver claiming race at Pimlico and the Howard County Stakes at Laurel. The Jamie Ness trainee was bred by Larry Johnson and is owned by Bunnymeade Racing, LLC.

2019 Virginia-Owned Filly - Bellafina. The Kentucky-bred filly is co-owned by Virginia businessman Kaleem Shah who previously won this category in 2015 with Dortmund. Bellafina bankrolled $858,725 last year from a stellar campaign that included three stakes wins at Santa Anita --- the Grade 2 Santa Ynez and Las Virgenes, and the Grade I Santa Anita Oaks. The Quality Road filly also finished second in a pair of other Grade I's --- the La Brea Stakes and Breeders Cup Filly/Mare Sprint. She was 43rd in earnings last year among all competing horses.

2019 Older Turf Mare - Ferdinanda. The 5-year-old Giant's Causeway mare bankrolled $141,460 last year from a pair of wins and three runner-up finishes in seven starts. Owned by Ann Backer and bred by her late husband's (William) Revocable Estate, Ferdinanda won the Brookmeade Stakes at Colonial Downs by six lengths with Forest Boyce in the irons and an allowance optional claimer at Gulfstream. Her second place finishes were at Saratoga, Belmont and Gulfstream. Overall, Ferdinanda has earned $282,700. She is out of the Came Home mare, My Mammy.

2

2019 Over Fences - Dapper Dan. The 8-year-old gelding won $140,790 from eight starts in 2019 including a win, a second and a trio of thirds. Bred by Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Firestone, the son of Pleasantly Perfect captured the fall Steeplethon at Great Meadow during the International Gold Cup card and was runner-up in the spring race's edition. The Neil Morris trainee is owned by Donna Rogers and is out of the War Chant mare, Wardrobe.

2019 3-Year-Old Turf Filly - Holly Hundy. The Yes Its True filly reached the winners circle three times in 2019 including once at Colonial Downs in the Camptown Stakes. Kent Desormeaux directed that 3 3/4 length victory in Holly Hundy's only non-west coast race of ten last year. She also prevailed twice at Santa Anita --- in a maiden special weight and an allowance optional claimer. Bred by Lazy Lane Farms, Holly Hundy earned $154,473 in 2019. She is out of Cryptos' Best by Cryptoclearance and was a $180,000 purchase at the Ocala two-year-old sale.

2019 3-Year-Old Filly - Out for a Spin. The Hard Spun mare secured this award when she captured the Grade I Ashland Stakes at 52-1 odds last April. The Dallas Stewart trainee won by a neck over Restless Rider with Paco Lopez in the irons. Out for a Spin was also victorious in an allowance race at Fair Grounds three weeks before the Ashland. After competing in the Kentucky Oaks, she was runner-up in the Bob

3

4

Fortus Memorial Stakes (black-type) at Fair Grounds and third in an allowance optional claimer at Churchill. Out of the Came Home mare, My Mammy, she was bred by the William Backer Revocable Estate and earned $364,610.

2019 3-Year-Old Male - Chess Chief. The Into Mischief colt amassed $274,970 last year courtesy of "top four" finishes in several Derbies around the country. After winning a spring maiden special weight at Fair Grounds, he went on to a fifth place finish in the Grade 2 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes, second in the West Virginia Derby, third in the Oklahoma Derby and fourth in the Indiana Derby. The final trio were all Grade 3 stakes. Chess Chief was bred by Morgan's Ford Farm and is out of the Mineshaft mare, Un Blessed. He was a $145,000 purchase at the 2017 Fasig-Tipton New York Yearling Sale.

2019 2-Year-Old Filly - Bella Aurora. The Carpe Diem filly's consistent campaign included "top three" finishes in all six of her starts. She reached the winner's circle three times at Laurel --- a maiden special weight in August, an allowance optional claimer in November and in December's Gin Talking Stakes. Bred by Morgan's Ford Farm, she was second in the Jamestown Stakes at Colonial and third in the Anne Arundel County Stakes at Laurel. Bella Aurora earned $141,140 last year. She is out of Street Interest by Street Cry and is trained by Mike Trombetta.

2019 2-Year-Old Male - Embolden. The Nancy Terhune and Ernest Frohboese-bred colt also had "in the money" finishes in all six of his starts on the way to accumulating $181,000 in purse monies. Two of the wins came at Colonial Downs --- one on opening day and the other on closing day. He connected early in a maiden special weight then later in the Jamestown Stakes. He also finished second in the Atlantic Beach Stakes at Aqueduct and third in the Grade 3 Futurity Stakes at Belmont. Owned by the Dare To Dream Stable and trained by Michael Stidham, Embolden is by The Factor out of Silver Heart by Lion Hearted.

2019 Virginia-Based Trainer - Neil Morris. The English born trainer has been based in Middleburg for over 25 years and his horses have amassed career purse earnings of $5.7 million. In 2019, he had 19 wins, 28 runner-up finishes and 30 thirds, good for a bankroll of $539,541 from 167 starts. His Dapper Dan, who was named Top Virginia-Bred Over Fences, won the Steeplethon at Great Meadow during the fall International Gold Cup card. He also won twice each with Family Tree, Junonia, Catauga County, Shrove Tuesday and Virginia-bred Gio Lemon.

2019 Virginia Breeder - William Backer Revocable Estate. The Backer Estate's 2019 resume includes 21 victories, three stakes wins highlighted by a Grade I score, and $124,335 in Virginia Breeders Fund bonus earnings. Out for a Spin, winner of the Grade I Ashland Stakes, was named Top Virginia-Bred/Sired 3-Year-Old Filly while Ferdinanda, winner of the Brookmeade Stakes, took Top Older Turf Male honors. Tryon Summer captured the Nellie Mae Stakes at Colonial and finished second to Ferdinanda in the Brookmeade. The trio bankrolled respective purse monies of $363,610, $141,460 and $100,045 last year. Four other horses bred by the Estate had multiple win seasons --- Buckys Pick, Gio Lemon, Hilltop Harmony and First Talent.

1. *Mr. Buff's February, 2020 win at Aqueduct boosted his career bankroll over $1 million. Photo courtesy of Adam Coglianese.*
2. *Dapper Dan, en route to a 2019 Steeplethon win at Great Meadow. Photo by Tod Marks*
3. *Out for a Spin wins the Grade I Ashland Stakes. Photo courtesy of Coady Photography.*
4. *Holly Hundy and rider Kent Desormeaux are best in the Camptown Stakes. Photo courtesy of Coady Photography.*

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter **May 2020**

A Budding Rivalry

By Jeff Gilleas

A quote by Roman poet Ovid states, "A horse never runs so fast as when he has other horses to catch up and outpace."

In my lifetime, I have been blessed to witness some of Thoroughbred racing's greatest rivalries.

Damascus vs. Dr. Fager, Sham vs. Secretariat, Affirmed vs. Alydar and Sunday Silence vs. Easy Goer – all heated confrontations that created devoted fans out of novices, while evoking impassioned feelings from hardened turf veterans.

Saturday, March 21, 2020, was not just another evening at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.

Nationwide, Thoroughbred racing was at a standstill, attributable to the Coronavirus.

An infectious disease, COVID-19 virtually forced all sport institutions into universal cancellations.

Under strict precautions, live racing at Charles Town was allowed to proceed, while every attempt was made to safeguard horses, jockeys, backstretch workers and employees.

Adhering to the policy of social distancing, fans were prohibited from attending.

The eight-race program was highlighted by a 7-furlong allowance that was the backdrop of a rivalry between two outstanding West Virginia-bred runners, Runnin'toluvya and Penguin Power.

Both sons of dominant sire Fiber Sonde, the duo were making their initial starts of the year, after respectively claiming Older Male and Sprinter of the Year honors in 2019.

Following Runnintoluvya's lackluster effort in the West Virginia Breeders Classic in October, owner Judy Grams and husband/trainer Tim opted to take their graded stakes winner home for a brief freshening.

Subscribers to Facebook periodically were able to check in on the progress of the 'Grey Rocket,' as video proof ensured the wellness of the Grams' champion.

Once back in training, railbirds documented Runnin'toluvya's superb morning trials.

Winner of just shy of $1 million, Runnin'toluvya commanded the camera lens Saturday evening, with eyes on exclusively limited to their high definition simulcast signal.

The field scratched down to four starters, but quality was not wanting.

Penguin Power looked primed in the paddock enclosure, though perhaps a tad on edge. The Jeff Runco trainee hadn't tested his vast skills since victorious in the November A Huevo Stakes.

The chestnut owned by David Raim and bred by John McKee had a total of nine starts in 2019, eight wins and one third. In their lone previous meeting, Penguin Power easily defeated Runnin'toluvya in the Frank Gall Memorial in September.

Completing the line-up were time-honored Mean Bean, winner of two in a row, including the Mint Mission Overnight Stakes, and the ultra-consistent North Atlantic, who hadn't been worse than third since Oct. 8, 2016, 30 starts back.

Track condition was labeled fast.

As the compact group cleared the starting gate Penguin Power bounded to the front, with Runnin'toluvya in hot pursuit.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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Flashing by the fanless grandstand Penguin Power held a comfortable margin, though heavily dependent upon his left lead.

Into the backstretch, strides lengthened and fractional times intensified, signaling the impressive cruising speed of these two gifted individuals.

Once on the far turn, there was no change in plot, except for Christian Hiraldo,on Runnin'toluvya, urging his mount for a peak response.

Inside the stretch, terms were still dictated by last year's sprint champion Penguin Power, when suddenly his early choice of leads appeared to have expended essential energy and have a punitive effect on performance.

With intimate personnel the only ones allowed to cheer Runnin'toluvya on, he dug down late and prevailed in the closing yards.

The winning margin was officially 2 lengths. Mean Bean was third, 1¼ lengths back, and 1½ lengths better than North Atlantic.

Leslie Cromer is the breeder of the 2019 West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association Co-Champion Horse of the Year.

With the presence of the coronavirus pandemic, future plans for Runnin'toluvya and Penguin Power have been in limbo.

Whenever live racing returns, the stage is set for a blue-ribbon equine rivalry; and a heated contest between two good friends and first-rate horsemen.

Family Tradition

The racetrack is not an environment conducive to keeping secrets.

So when Late Night Pow Wow's full brother, Muad'dib, was discovered prepping for his debut, the hype created was synonymous to a swarm of reporters pitching their absorbing content to TMZ.

The good-looking 3-year-old son of Fiber Sonde, out of the Indian Charlie mare Holy Pow Wow, was bred by John and Cyndy McKee, and like Late Night Pow Wow, was born and raised at their Beau Ridge Farm before being sold privately.

The lucky recipient of this purchase was David Raim and the lottery-winning conditioner Jeff Runco.

An interesting field of maiden special weight runners met Feb. 5 to go a distance of 7 furlongs. Although a first-time starter is always an unknown commodity, Muad'dib was bet down to odds of 4-5.

The gray/roan gelding did not disappoint his backers as he rumbled to a 5¼-length victory.

The final time was a pedestrian 1:27.81, but as veterans of the game will attest, time only counts if you're serving it.

Approximately three weeks later, Muad'dib appeared in a non-winners-of-three allowance.

This race was even more impressive than his debut, as he broke from the rail post, hustled to the early advantage, set a pressured pace and drew off at his rider Arnaldo Bocachica's insistence.

Equibase charts had Muad'dib winning by 7¾ lengths.

Third time out, March 21, Muad'dib put his unblemished streak on the line. It was another huge success.

This time he won by 8 lengths, returned a stingy winning payoff ($2.40), and had pundits wondering just how good is this full-brother to one of the best West Virginia-breds in recent years.

Only time will tell if Muad'dib has the obligatory ability to establish himself as a superstar, and supplant the memory of his sister.

News and Notes

These are unprecedented times in which we find ourselves.

The coronavirus pandemic has tried to lay waste to our beloved occupation.

For now, we are pawns to the outbreak.

If there is one defining characteristic inherent in every member of the horse racing community; it is resiliency.

Please be safe, take care of your beloved horses and eminently each other.

NOTES TO MEMBERS

- **The 10-10-10 program** is now called the **Supplemental Purse Award Claim**, for which there are new forms. All claims must be submitted to the WV Racing Commission within 15 days from the date the purse is awarded. Claim forms are available on the WV Racing Commission website, racing.wv.gov.
- If you are selling or planning to sell your accredited WV-bred and/or sired horse, please contact the WVTBA. The WVTBA has started supplying sellers of **accredited WV-bred and/or sired horses** with **hip stickers and stall-card stickers** to make it easier for buyers to identify these horses. Contact the WVTBA office at (304) 728-6868 or by e-mail at wvbreeders@gmail.com.
- **WV Certificates** will be issued seven to 10 days after the WVTBA receives the original registration form application, all required paperwork and payment.
- The new WVTBA office is located at 110 South George Street, Suite 4, Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. More information may be found at www.wvtba.net.

www.nationalsteeplechase.com

MAY 2020

Chasing

NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION | 400 FAIR HILL DRIVE, ELKTON, MD 21921

NSA maintains its top priority on the safety of horse and rider

The National Steeplechase Association places its highest priority on assuring the safety of steeplechase athletes, both equine and human.

The National Steeplechase Association, its race meets, and its horsemen undertake significant actions to assure a racing surface of the highest quality and take proactive steps to minimize the chances of injury.

While accidents will occur, important actions have been taken to prevent them. Some of those proactive steps are:

• The National Steeplechase Association maintains a standing Safety Committee that reviews all race-course incidents and recommends changes to the sport to assure the highest level of safety for horses and jockeys.

• The NSA is a member of several regional and national racing organizations committed to race-course safety and accident prevention.

• The NSA maintains a safety steward at every race meet.

• Every horse in every race undergoes a prerace checkup by licensed, experienced equine veterinarians. The detailed checkups involve limb and joint inspections as well as a soundness examination. Horses also are observed by veterinarians in the paddock before the race and at the starting point.

• The NSA was a leader in the horse-racing industry in instituting concussion testing for all jockeys. (See page 2.)

• The NSA requires race meets to have well-equipped equine and human ambulances available at all times during racing.

• The NSA maintains a registry of horses who have been involved in incidents or have had cases of unsoundness. Known as a vet's list, the registry assures that a horse cannot race again until it has demonstrated that it has attained racing fitness and soundness.

A battle to the finish in the 2019 Marcellus Frost Champion Hurdle at Iroquois.
TOD MARKS PHOTO

• On the recommendation of the Safety Committee, races for nonwinners are limited to no more than 10 starters. Other limits on race-field size and conditions also are considered regularly by the Safety Committee.

• Also on the recommendation of the Safety Committee, some races are limited to experienced jockeys.

• Race courses are maintained to promote the highest level of safety, and several courses have irrigation systems to assure favorable racing conditions.

• NSA stewards are authorized to take necessary steps to assure safety on race days, including changes to the course because of weather or other conditions.

• The NSA's National Fences have a nearly half-century record of safety, and the Safety Committee regularly considers improvements to them.

• Medication rules are strictly enforced, and post-race testing of selected horses is conducted at all race meets.

NSA is industry leader in preventing and addressing jockey concussions

Although a small corner of Thoroughbred racing, the National Steeplechase Association has been an industry leader in preventing head injuries and specifically concussions.

Long ago, the NSA instituted stringent standards for jockeys' safety helmets, and the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation has a program for replacing helmets damaged in racing falls at no cost to the jockey.

Steeplechase racing was a leader in recognizing the long-term dangers of concussions for its riders. To protect its jockeys, the NSA initiated ImPACT neurophysiological testing for all licensed riders in 2013. All riders are required to take a baseline test every three years.

If a rider is suspected of having sustained a concussion in a fall (as determined by the course physician), that rider is required to undergo a five-step Return to Competition protocol. This usually takes a minimum of two weeks and is undertaken at a sports-medicine concussion clinic.

A second, post-injury ImPACT test is taken as a part of this protocol. The scores are correlated with the rider's baseline scores by a certified interpreter and must have normalized before a rider is cleared to ride again.

Also in 2013, a race-day concussion screening tool was developed to aid course physicians in assessing a fallen rider for a possible concussion. This tool incorporates elements of the standard tests widely used in all sports programs. This sideline assessment tool has been revised and updated several times as new information has become available.

From left, Sean McDermott, Michael Mitchell, and Willie McCarthy had mounts for Bruton Street-US in the 2019 Calvin Houghland Iroqouis (Gr. 1). McDermott rode Scopiancer to a second victory in the Nashville meet's signature race.

TOD MARKS PHOTO

To assist the course physician and expedite concussion screening, the NSA, in collaboration with the Steeplechase Jockeys Association of America, has utilized athletic trainers who have specialized concussion training at many of its race meets.

Because many of our riders go back and forth between the U.S. and England or Ireland, or both, the NSA's Safety Committee maintains a working relationship with the chief medical officers of the British Horseracing Authority and the Irish Racing Board.

The NSA effort has been guided by Gregg Morris, a medical professional and NSA senior steward who is a former jockey and trainer.

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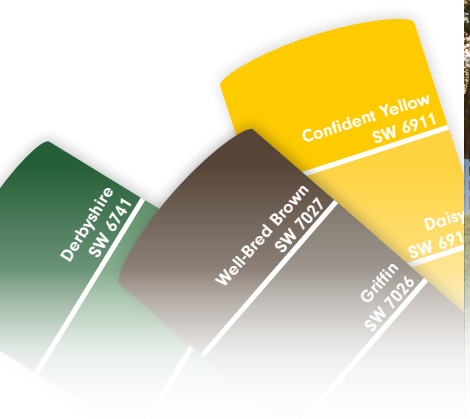

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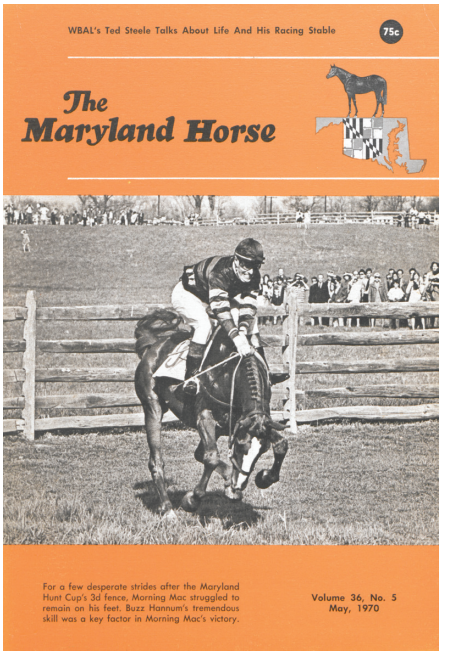
Looking Back

50 years ago



■ Only a field of four lined up for the Maryland Hunt Cup, minus defending champion Landing Party, who was scratched the morning of the race. The result was a shocker. The Hannum family's hunter Morning Mac, who only the week before had run in his first National Steeplechase and Hunt Association sanctioned race (the secondary feature of the Grand National in Butler), leaped the final two fences strongly and galloped home a 2½-length winner over *Knockbawn. Buzz Hannum was in the irons, wearing the blue and orange silks of his mother, Mrs. John B. "Nancy" Hannum of Unionville, Pa.

A blaze-faced 8-year-old chestnut son of legendary Hunt Cup runner Cormac, Morning Mac was described by his owner as "the nicest horse in the world to hunt. He's easy-going, with a snaffle mouth. My huntsman has hunted hounds with him, the whipper-in has ridden him a great deal, and I've taken the field many times on him. He became fit in the hunting field, slogging through the mud and snow all winter."

■ The John R.S. Fisher-trained Landing Party rolled through the spring with wins at My Lady's Manor and the Grand National, but exited the latter race one week before the Hunt Cup with filling in both front legs, attributed to soggy course conditions. Said Fisher: "As you know, I would do almost anything to win the Hunt Cup, but the odds of severe injury were far too great to jeopardize him in this race." Fisher did have a Hunt Cup starter in George Weymouth's timber champion Island Stream, who refused the fifth fence and was eventually pulled up.

■ Alfred Smith's Tuscalee, the 1966 champion steeplechaser retired in the summer of 1969 when injured at Delaware Park, returned to the races in an attempt to break Elkridge's 30-year record of 32 jump victories. "Mr. Smith and I talked about it, and decided Tuscalee deserves a chance at trying for it," said trainer J. Leiter Aitcheson. "He loves to run, and he does better when he's in training."

Guided by his regular rider, the trainer's son Joe Aitcheson, 10-year-old Tuscalee recorded his first win of 1970—jump win number 29—in the Broadview brush race on the Virginia Gold Cup card.

Tuscalee tied Elkridge's mark by year's end and added five more to retire with 37 wins over jumps, a record which still stands. Both horses are in the National Racing Hall of Fame.

■ David "Sonny" Werblin's champion 2-year-old Silent Screen, the first Kentucky Derby starter for 61-year-old Maryland trainer J. Bowes Bond, had been the focus of the media Derby week. Totally overlooked was a diminutive grandson of Bold Ruler named Dust Commander. Purchased for $6,500 as a yearling by owner Robert Lehmann, the chestnut colt trained by Don Combs powered away for the win (Silent Screen was fifth). Two of Dust Commander's four wins from 14 starts at 2 came at Delaware Park. In his start before the Derby he upset the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland. Remarkably, he was the first Derby winner to have seven-time leading sire Bold Ruler in his pedigree.

■ Television and radio personality, big band leader and songwriter Ted Steele and his wife Jean moved to Maryland to be closer to their small stable of runners, trained at Pimlico by Hyman "Hap" Ravich. Steele, who left New York and took a job with WBAL radio as a morning disc jockey, had bought his first racehorse two years earlier. The best horse in their stable was Top Trojan, a $5,000 claim from trainer Buddy Jacobson.

10 years ago

■ Legendary trainer King T. Leatherbury was selected to receive the University of Louisville's John W. Galbreath Award for Outstanding Entrepreneurship in the Equine Industry, given in recognition of approaches to management that are both innovative and successful, as well as for high character and industry leadership.

The 77-year-old trainer spoke candidly (as always) with writer Vinnie Perrone about his decades-long career. And said a life without racing is a world without light.

"That's all I am," he said. "I'm just a horse trainer and if I stop doin' that, I wouldn't be anything. I wouldn't be King Leatherbury."

■ Charles John "Chick" Lang, a prominent figure in Maryland racing for more than 50 years, died at 83. Serving as Pimlico's director of racing before becoming vice president and general manager, Lang's most lasting legacy was the promotion of the Preakness. The opening of the infield on Preakness day, which more than tripled the day's attendance and handle, was his brainchild.

■ Cable Boy, a 6-year-old son of Jump Start whose dazzling performances in his first three career starts at Monmouth Park put him on the fast track to Grade 1 competition, retired to stud to Colonial Farms in Colts Neck, N.J.

In six small crops, Cable Boy sired 24 foals, including multiple stakes winners and $400,000-plus earners Liz's Cable Girl and She's Hot Wired. He died unexpectedly in 2017.

75 years ago

■ The Racing Scene, so as it was in the spring of 1945, as reported by Don Reed:

"At this time of year, when Maryland normally would be in the midst of its spring racing season, the best patrons of the turf can do is mull over recent developments and hope for the best in the near future." Harry S. Truman, who became president following the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt that April, had remarked in his first press conference that the racing ban would continue.

■ After turning to raising beef cattle and purebred Hampshire hogs during the war at his Winnaford Farm in Hyde, Md., Chester F. Hockley was down to three Thoroughbred mares, owned in partnership with Lt. Commander H.F. Guggenheim of Cain Hoy Stable. Hockley didn't expect to add any more until after the war.

All three mares were to be bred to Virginia stallions that year: Lady Beware, by *Bull Dog, was going to Preakness winner Head Play (standing at North Wales in Warrenton); *Etching was to be one of the first mares bred to *Princequillo (standing at Arthur B. Hancock's Ellerslie Stud); and *Dursa was visiting Abram S. Hewitt's highly successful Pilate.

The next year Lady Beware foaled the filly Danger Ahead at Winnaford. Stakes-placed at 2, she raced for Guggenheim until claimed in May of her 4-year-old season by H.W. Fincher for $6,000 at Garden State. Three months later she won Monmouth Park's Molly Pitcher Handicap. Danger Ahead became a broodmare, and although she only produced six foals, one was Stop On Red, the granddam of Spectacular Bid.

■ C.W. Anderson – "artist and author of *Thoroughbreds, Big Red, Deep Through the Heart* and a number of other well-appreciated books" – met with Humphrey Finney and together they visited McDonogh School (in Baltimore County, Maryland). The artist generously promised to demonstrate to the boys how to draw a horse, and did sketches to show conformation points, bone structure and riding positions.

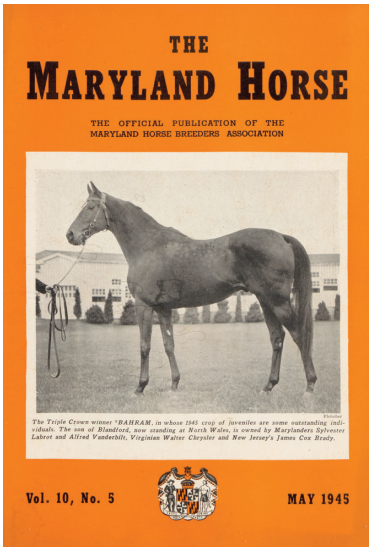
■ The annual list of names submitted by Lt. Alfred G. Vanderbilt for his 2-year-olds included such gems as fillies Geisha (Discovery—Miyako), Stark Ravin (*Bahram—Mad Beth) and Stellar Role (Bimelech—Astralobe) and colts Kitchen Police (Discovery—Galley Slave) and Thwarted (Discovery—Outdone).

Five years later the fillies Geisha and Stellar Role produced colts Vanderbilt famously named Native Dancer (by Polynesian) and Find (by Discovery).

■ One of Maryland's outstanding cross-country riders, Lt. Hugh J. O'Donovan, was based in Germany, and sent a letter to the editor:

"Dear Mr. Finney:

"Just a short note to say hello and thank you for sending the Maryland Horse to me so promptly. It is really a wonderful treat to receive your magazine up front and can assure you that it is being read from cover to cover. One loses much contact with the things he loves over here and it is indeed a welcome relief to receive the Maryland Horse and be able to keep up somewhat with the news. I do trust the ban on racing is lifted so that I can read about racing as usual in '45. . ."



The second U.S.-sired crop of juveniles by English Triple Crown winner *Bahram was eagerly awaited. He stood at North Wales Farm in Virginia.

■ J.H. "Jerry" Louchheim, owner of Three Cousins Farm in Hyde, Md., died at his Philadelphia residence at age 71. Louchheim had raced in Maryland for years before forming a partnership with his cousins Harry F. Louchheim and Henry S. Horkheimer to operate the farm. The best horse to carry his colors was ill-fated Pompoon, winner of the 1936 Futurity at Belmont and winter-book favorite for the Kentucky Derby. He finished second to War Admiral in the Derby and Preakness, and before he could enter stud died from illness.

25 years ago

■ In his first start since capturing the 1994 Breeders' Cup Classic-G1, Concern won the New Orleans Handicap-G3 at Fair Grounds, employing his familiar late-running style to win by 3 lengths. The Maryland-bred was one of nine graded stakes winners in February and March bred in the region, the others being Maryland-breds Cigar (Donn-G1, Gulfstream Park-G1), Awad (Pan American-G2), Smart 'N Noble (Barbara Fritchie-G2, Snow Goose-G3), Square Cut (San Luis Obispo-G2), Who Wouldn't (General George-G2) and Brushing Gloom (Fair Grounds Oaks-G3), Virginia-bred Honor the Hero (Phoenix Gold Cup-G3) and West Virginia-bred Afternoon Deelites. The latter ranked as the top 3-year-old on the National Thoroughbred Poll through April, having won the San Vicente Breeders' Cup-G3 and San Felipe Stakes-G2 to remain undefeated in five starts, four in stakes.

West Virginia-bred Afternoon Deelites, Burt Bacharach's undefeated Grade 1 winner, ranked as the nation's top 3-year-old after his San Felipe Stakes-G2 score at Santa Anita.

■ Steeplechase owners and trainers finally received formal representation with the creation of the Steeplechase Horsemen's Association (SHA). "Long overdue," said Duncan Patterson, an owner/trainer and former amateur rider who volunteered to head the steering committee which would draft the bylaws and a constitution. The SHA planned to tackle issues such as the need for uniform standards for course maintenance, medication policies, more consistent officiating and the most complicated threat of all – liability.

Later that year, the SHA changed its name to the Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association (SOTA), which still exists today.

■ The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation's second national program, at the Charles H. Hickey Jr. School in Baltimore County, Md., was nearing its first-year anniversary. It was a joint effort of the TRF, the state of Maryland, and Youth Services International, which ran the Hickey School, a facility for incarcerated male youths aged 14 to 17.

The program was in place for just over a decade before unrelated issues at the school shut it down. TRF has run a program at Second Chances Farm in Sykesville, Md., since 2009.

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ACROSTIC

By Vinnie Perrone

Waiting for the blacksmith, the vet, post time for your horse's race? Maybe you just have a little time on your hands. Regardless, try this acrostic puzzle, created by writer (and word puzzler) Vinnie Perrone. Not quite a crossword puzzle, a little more than Sudoku, an acrostic tests your knowledge of racing and other trivia. When you're done, the puzzle reveals a quote from the *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* archives and the speaker's name/topic. Solution provided next month.

HOW TO SOLVE: Define clues in Words column. Transfer letters to diagram. Quotation reads across; first letters of Words column, vertically, form acrostic of speaker's name and topic. NOTE: The puzzle contains no punctuation.

CLUES	WORDS
A. Old Forester gelding was '17 CAN-bred HOY: 2 wds.	1 84 99 117 17 149 70 136 30
B. Gun Runner trainer made Hall of Fame in 2016	85 131 27 145 55 104 43 5
C. Direction U.S. runners turn	159 143 33 119
D. What certain horse fencing might be	112 24 123 45 156 56
E. Del Mar turf stake named for ex-publicist: 2 wds.	65 166 19 98 118 52 152 35 76
F. Achieved or assembled, as successive wins: 2 wds.	88 20 73 108 6 48 140 120
G. Groomed	110 91 157 125 28 63
H. Noted 20th c. Dutch artist mixed realism and fantasy	162 13 101 137 89 36
I. Sir Barton's trainer	141 25 66 103 49 126 79
J. Biblical giants referenced in Deuteronomy	82 155 64 105 42
K. Drug used as a local anesthetic for horses	107 72 93 2 153 16 132 62 51
L. Equine condition yielding an uncoordinated gait	134 60 114 151 26 165 83
M. He trained '91 Derby runner-up Best Pal: 2 wds.	106 12 86 40 67 94 127
N. High-end jewelry retailer	128 47 109 34 154 10 80
O. Farm name Spectacular Bid ran under	161 57 11 97 142 46 78 32 21 129
P. Footnote for a tardy starter: 2 wds.	102 14 68 139 3 121 90
Q. Mysterious sky lights, perhaps: abbr.	115 39 15 133
R. Colt won '92 FL Derby, Haskell for Hine stable	148 18 116 53 75 41 160 31 100 4
S. Site of Iowa State's main campus	74 58 146 122
T. Iconic owner-breeder led NYRA, Jockey Club: 2 wds.	164 124 96 29 150 77 135 8 44 92 59
U. Claim or auction purchase	113 69 144 158 95 7 54 22 130 38 81
V. PA-bred son of K One King took 2019 Iselin	37 111 50 61 147 87 163 23 138 71 9

1 A	2 K	3 P	4 R	5 B	6 F	7 U	8 T	9 V	10 N
■	11 O	12 M	13 H	■	14 P	15 Q	16 K	17 A	18 R
19 E	■	20 F	21 O	■	22 U	23 V	24 D	■	25 I
26 L	27 B	28 G	29 T	30 A	31 R	32 O	33 C	■	34 N
35 E	36 H	37 V	■	38 U	39 Q	■	40 M	41 R	42 J
43 B	44 T	45 D	■	46 O	47 N	48 F	49 I	50 V	51 K
52 E	■	53 R	54 U	55 B	■	56 D	57 O	58 S	■
59 T	60 L	61 V	62 K	■	63 G	64 J	65 E	66 I	■
67 M	68 P	■	69 U	70 A	71 V	72 K	73 F	■	74 S
75 R	76 E	■	77 T	78 O	79 I	80 N	81 U	82 J	83 L
84 A	85 B	86 M	■	87 V	88 F	89 H	90 P	■	91 G
92 T	■	93 K	94 M	95 U	96 T	97 O	98 E	99 A	100 R
■	101 H	102 P	103 I	104 B	■	105 J	106M	107 K	108 F
■	109 N	110 G	111 V	112 D	■	113 U	■	114 L	115Q
116 R	117 A	118 E	119 C	■	120 F	121 P	122 S	123 D	124 T
125 G	126 I	127M	■	128 N	129 O	130 U	131 B	■	132 K
133 Q	■	134 L	135 T	136 A	■	137 H	138 V	■	139 P
140 F	141 I	142 O	143 C	144 U	145 B	146 S	147 V	148 R	149 A
150 T	■	151 L	152 E	153 K	154 N	155 J	156 D	■	157G
158 U	159 C	160 R	■	161 O	162 H	163 V	164 T	165 L	166 E

(PATRICIA) CHAPMAN: HARDY SMARTY JONES. HE HAD PERSONALITY AND WOULD JUST RUN CIRCLES AROUND HIS PLAYMATES OUT IN THE FIELD. BUT HE WAS SMALL, AND WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE MIGHT TURN INTO. IF WE HAD LISTENED TO HIS ATTITUDE, WE WOULD HAVE KNOWN.

A. Cushion
B. Hound
C. Abet
D. Pulpit
E. Maiden
F. Awhile
G. New Holland
H. Hacked
I. Avila
J. Ridden out
K. Doughnuts
L. Yiddish
M. Shawan Downs
N. Miniature
O. Assault
P. Rewind
Q. Twitter
R. Yarmouth
S. Jostle
T. Off the wall
U. Netted
V. Ewe
W. Sheath

Not This Year. A huge crowd watched the Maryland Hunt Cup, and enjoyed a stellar April day, in 1960. Founded in 1894, the storied steeplechase was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only World War II stopped the Hunt Cup previously (in 1943, 1944 and 1945).

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the Baltimore *Sun* for 50 years – from 1920 until his death in 1970 – captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

Image #09-151 www.aaubreybodine.com
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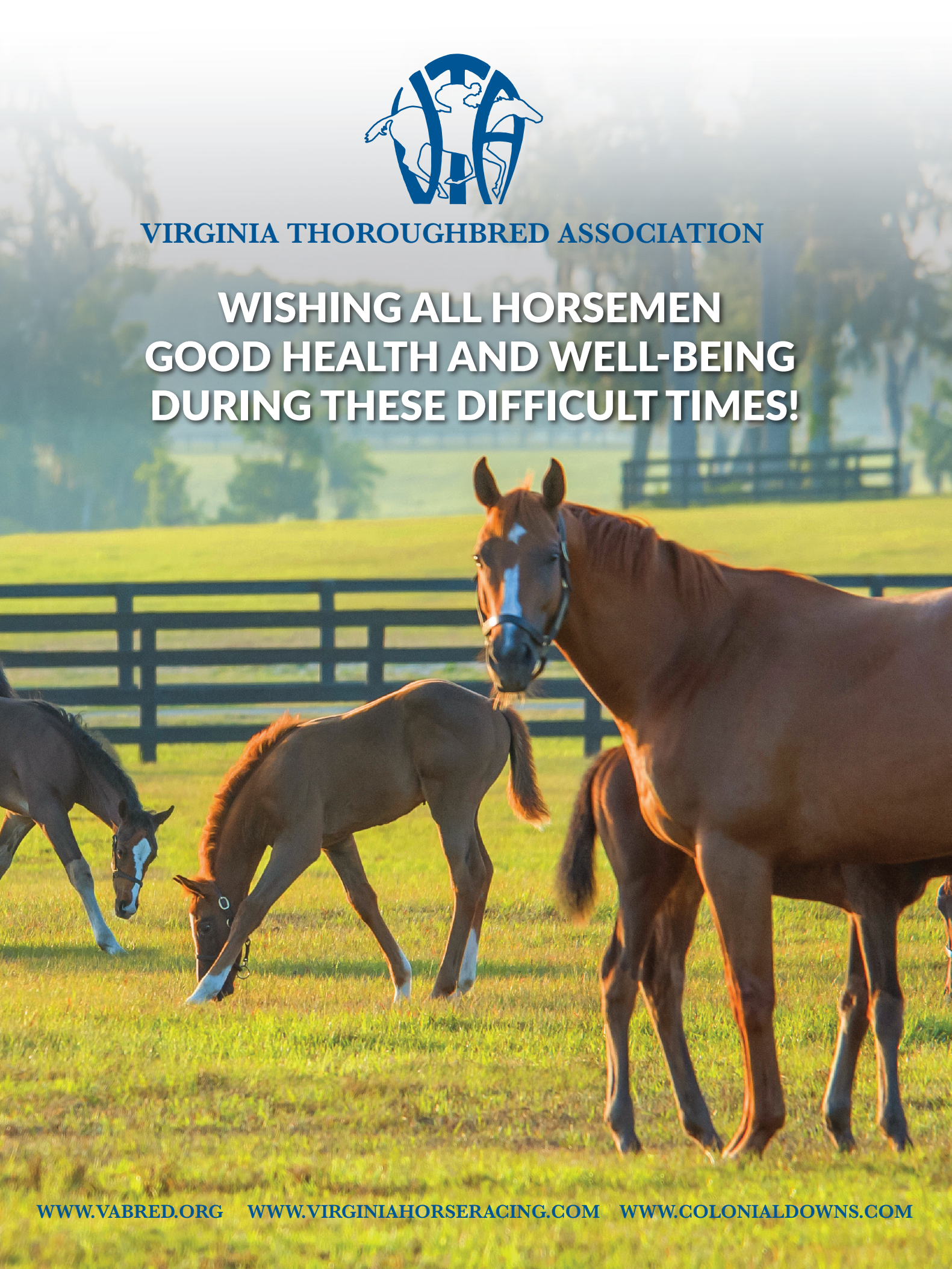
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